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JUDICIARY EXPLORING AI TOOLS, SAYS CJI-DESIGNATE SURYA KANT

Justice Surya Kant said on Sunday the judiciary has begun exploring AI-based tools with a view that tech must augment, not replace, the human mind

'HUMANITY GIVES JUSTICE ITS MORAL CORE'

The Chief Justice of India-designate emphasised that technology must be harnessed as a tool, without surrendering the humanity that gives justice its moral core. Kant said, "The law, after all, is not a mere algorithm. It is a reflection of human conscience, shaped by empathy, moral reasoning, and an understanding of context that machines cannot replicate"

AI CAN HELP IMPROVE JUSTICE DELIVERY: KANT

- Justice Kant said AI-based tools are being considered for research, transcription and data analytics. He added that they could help improve efficiency and analytical precision in the delivery of justice
- He was speaking at the valedictory function of the Sixth Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts in Delhi

Nov 24

WHEN JUSTICE SURYA KANT WILL TAKE CHARGE AS THE 53RD CJI

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

All eyes on Bihar women voters as final phase campaigning winds up

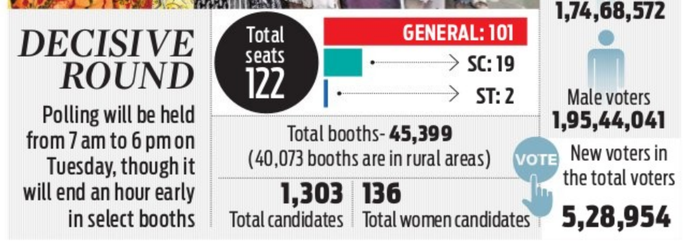
In NDA, BJP is contesting 53 seats, JD(U) 44, while INDIA bloc's RJD is up on 72, Cong 37

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND RAMASHANKAR
@ New Delhi/Patna

CAMPAIGNING for the second and final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections concluded on Sunday evening, capping nearly a month of intense canvassing and clamorous exchanges between the ruling NDA and the opposition Mahagathbandhan. Polling will take place on November 11 across 122 constituencies in 20 districts, marking the decisive round of a high-stakes contest.

The first phase on November 6 saw a record voter turnout of 65.08 percent, the highest in the state's history, with women outnumbering men at poll booths. The turnout of women voters in this phase may well decide whether, as many put it, "*Rajnitik badlav ki hawa chali ya nahi* (if a political wind of change has blown)."

Among key seats going to polls in this phase are Chakai, from where JD(U) minister Sumit Kumar Singh is seeking re-election, BJP MLA Shreyasi Singh's Jamui, JD(U) minister Leshi Singh's Dhamdaha, and BJP minister Neeraj Kumar Singh's Chhatapur.


DECISIVE ROUND
Polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Tuesday, though it will end an hour early in select booths
Total seats 122
GENERAL: 101
SC: 19
ST: 2
Total booths- 45,399
(40,073 booths are in rural areas)
1,303 Total candidates
136 Total women candidates
Total voters 3,70,13,556
Women voters 1,74,68,572
Male voters 1,95,44,041
VOTE
New voters in the total voters 5,28,954

In the second and final phase of Bihar Assembly elections, all eyes are on women voters—1.74 crore of them out of 3.70 crore total electors—are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the outcome.

"Women voters have certainly become a segment that could determine the fortunes of both the ruling NDA and the opposition Mahagathbandhan (MGB)," said Ravi K Sinha, a Patna-based political analyst.

Both alliances have aggressively courted women voters. Nitish Kumar has leaned on welfare schemes such as the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, under which ₹10,000 was directly credited to over two crore women to promote financial independence.

During his 71 rallies, the chief minister framed his campaign around women's empowerment and safety, contrasting his record with the "Jungle Raj" years under the RJD.

Tejashwi Yadav's campaigns sought to link women's vote with the twin concerns of unemployment and rising prices. Women account for nearly 47% of Bihar's electorate.

According to Election Commission figures, 1,302 candidates, including 136 women, are contesting the final phase, which covers 19 constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes. Sashastra Seema Bal forces have been roped it to tighten security in districts bordering Nepal, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand untill polling ends.

Eleven ministers are in the fray in the final phase, including Bijendra Prasad Yadav (Supaul) and Prem Kumar (Gaya Town), each seeking a ninth consecutive term.

Other prominent contestants include Renu Devi, Nitish Mishra, Leshi Singh, and Mohammad Zama Khan.

Guj ATS thwarts suspected ISIS-K ricin terror plot, doc among 3 held

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) thwarted a chilling terror plot to unleash mass casualties in the state using ricin and arrested three suspected Islamic State operatives from the state's Gandhinagar and Banaskantha districts.

The first of the three to be arrested was Dr Ahmed Mohyuddin Syed, a Hyderabad-based MBBS graduate who studied in China. Syed, the alleged mastermind of the plot, had allegedly begun synthesising a deadly poison from cyanide and ricin, a lethal toxin that can be used as a biological weapon.

According to ATS Deputy Inspector General Sunil Joshi, intelligence inputs indicated that Syed entered Gujarat to execute a terror strike under the ISIS-K or ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan Province) banner. Multiple ATS teams were mobilised to track him down. The team intercepted a silver Ford Figo on the Ahmedabad-Mehsana highway. Inside, they found Syed with two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges, and four litres of castor oil, a precursor to ricin poison. Police said Syed's interrogation revealed transnational links.

The three suspects arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad | PTI

He reportedly confessed to receiving instructions from Abu Khadija, an Afghan-based ISKP handler with Pakistani contacts. He had also procured raw materials and lab equipment to produce chemical toxins. Joshi said the digital evidence on Syed's phone confirmed his research into ricin production.

The probe widened after authorities traced a number found on Syed's device to Banaskantha, where two other suspects, Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail, both from Uttar Pradesh, were nabbed. ATS sources said the duo had procured foreign-made weapons from Hanumangarh in Rajasthan and hidden them in a graveyard near Kalol in Gandhinagar for Syed to collect. Before he could retrieve them, the ATS intervened.

New video shows convicts dancing; Dr G to meet officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru / Davangere

AFTER videos of preferential treatment to some prisoners and security lapses at Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara went viral on Saturday, Home Minister G Parameshwara called a meeting with prison officials on Monday.

Meanwhile, another undated video surfaced on Sunday showing inmates enjoying themselves inside the jail by consuming alcohol and dancing to beats created using available items such as plates and drums. Officials are yet to confirm whether the video was shot recently.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters in Davanagere that strict action will be taken against those found guilty and measures will be implemented to ensure such incidents do not recur. "The officer concerned had gone on leave. The home minister has called a meeting tomorrow (Monday) to discuss the issue," he said.

Parameshwara told reporters in Bengaluru that when similar incidents occurred earlier in Mangaluru, Belagavi and Bengaluru prisons, officials were suspended.

"But such incidents are happening repeatedly here (in Bengaluru). We have appointed B Dayananda as the head of prisons. He was on leave yesterday, but I have spoken to him. I told him that action should be taken against whoever responsible, be it the superintendent or lower-level staff and a report filed," Parameshwara said. **P6**

A video grab of prisoners dancing inside the Bengaluru Central Prison

RSS identified as a body of individuals, says Bhagwat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a veiled remark against Congress leaders criticising RSS for operating without registration, RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said his organisation is recognised as a body of individuals.

"RSS was established in 1925, so do you expect us to have registered with the British government," Bhagwat asked, replying to a question during an in-house question and answer session organised by RSS.

After Independence, the Government of India did not make registration compulsory, he said. "We are categorised as a body of individuals, and we are a recognised organisation," Bhagwat explained.

Asked whether Muslims are allowed in the Sangh, he clarified that anyone can join the shakha irrespective of religion, as all are sons of Bharat Mata. The Sangh identifies individuals as Hindus beyond denominational lines. "Individual identities -- be it Brahmin, Muslim, or Christian -- are dissolved in the shakha," he said. The Sangh's outreach focuses on enabling neglected sections to uplift their own communities, as Sangh's core work is shakha and man-making to make individuals self-reliant.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses '100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons' event, in Bengaluru on Sunday | PTI

'Can be a Hindu Rashtra tomorrow if people wish'

India can become Hindu Rashtra "tomorrow morning" if 1.4 billion people take a collective decision, Bhagwat said. "Hindu rashtra is the essence of Bharat's identity, which means harmony, equality and unity, not domination"

He said Bharat can become Hindu Rashtra "tomorrow morning" if 1.4 billion people take a collective decision. "Hindu rashtra is the essence of Bharat's identity and strength which means harmony, equality and unity, not domination. It reflects the cultural foundation that holds the country together," he said on the concluding day of the two-day lecture series on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's centenary.

Obliquely referring to Pakistan, he said that whenever the neighbouring country has tried to harm Bharat, it has hurt itself. "Bharat always desires peace. Whenever Pakistan attacks, we must give it a befitting reply."

Appreciating India's foreign policy, he said it has managed to strike a balance with China.

CONTINUED ON: P5

The tiger was tranquilised by forest officials at Moleyur range of Saragur taluk late on Saturday night. It had injuries on its neck caused by a snare (in circle)

Tiger suspected to have killed farmer captured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

FOREST officials captured a male tiger, aged around 12-13 years, in the Moleyur forest range of Sargur taluk late on Saturday night. This is suspected to be the big cat that killed farmer Chowda Nayaka two days earlier.

After Nayaka (35) was mauled to death near the Nugu dam at Hale Heggudilu village on Friday, foresters had launched an intense combing operation using thermal drones to trace the tiger.

Around 4 pm on Saturday, the team located the tiger around 750 metre from where Nayaka's partially eaten body had been found. As the drone approached, the tiger moved into thick bushes, and the officials kept a close watch. Around 5.30 pm, the tiger emerged, and the foresters noticed a snare around its neck which could have been placed by poachers. Following its pugmarks, the team tracked the animal to a spot nearly a kilometre away.

2 elephants drown

Two wild elephants drowned while crossing the backwaters of Harobele reservoir in Kanakapura taluk of Bengaluru South district | **P6**

Wildlife veterinarian Dr Wasim Mirza, mounted on camp elephant Rohith, veterinarian Dr Adarsh on elephant Bhima and DRFO Ranjan on another elephant worked together to block the tiger's path and prevent it from entering nearby villages.

At 11.07 pm, veterinarian Dr Ramesh fired a tranquilising dart and within minutes, the tiger was sedated. **CONTINUED ON: P4**

2 gangsters detained in Georgia, US

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO wanted Haryana gangsters, Venkatesh Garg and Bhanu Rana, have been detained in Georgia and the United States, respectively, and are expected to be deported to India soon, a top police official told this newspaper.

"A team of Haryana police is already in Georgia to bring back fugitive Venkatesh Garg, while deliberations are ongoing to bring back Bhanu Rana from the US," the official said.

Venkatesh Garg is associated with the Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu gang and hails from Narayangarh in Haryana. More than 10 criminal cases have been registered against him. He fled to Georgia after being implicated in the murder of a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader in Gurugram. He has been operating an extortion racket and recruiting youth from the state as well as from Rajasthan and Delhi, into his criminal network, sources said.

Meanwhile, the other gangster, Bhanu Rana, a close associate of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi gang from Karnal, has been operating across Haryana, Punjab and Delhi. His name surfaced during investigations into a grenade attack in Punjab earlier this year. In June, when the Special Task Force in Karnal arrested two men carrying hand grenades and pistols, they reportedly confessed that they were acting on Rana's orders.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

World runs out of excuses as UN's 30th climate conference kicks off in the Amazon

SOUMYA SARKAR @ Belém (Brazil)

IN Belém, the tropical rain drifts in from the river and settles over a city of fishing boats and mango trees. The quiet streets of the city, known in Brazil as the Amazon's capital, will over the next two weeks be a microcosm of the world as nearly 200 national delegations arrive for COP30, the UN's 30th climate conference. The Amazon's gateway city will once again find itself at the centre of a global reckoning.

The UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2025 warns that planet-warming greenhouse gases are still rising, with global emissions 7% higher than in 2020. Despite countless promises, the world's heating trajectory remains unchanged. "Current policies will reduce projected 2030 emissions by only 2% compared with last year's estimates," says the UN Environment Programme. "The path to a liveable future gets steeper by the day," UN Secretary-General António Guterres has reminded governments. "But this is no reason to surrender. It's a reason to step up and speed up."

COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA BELÉM 2025

Finance, the other side of the climate equation, looks equally fragile. The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, unveiled ahead of the summit, sets a target of $1.3 trillion a year in global climate funding by 2035, with $300 billion to be channelled from wealthy nations to poorer countries. Yet, actual flows are scarcely a tenth of what is required. That shortfall, more than any speech or declaration, will shape the outcome of COP30.

A decade after the Paris Agreement was adopted, implementation continues to lag. The UN's 2025 report on national climate plans shows most countries have updated their commitments, but the combined effect still points to higher emissions by 2030, about 9% above 2010 levels. The State of Climate Action 2025 finds that none of the key sectors such as energy, transport, industry and agriculture is cutting emissions fast enough to bend the global curve.

For developing economies, progress depends on money that has not arrived. The $100-billion annual pledge, first made in 2009, was fulfilled only in 2023. India's case shows the scale of the challenge. According to a CEEW (Council on Energy, Environment and Water) study, achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 would require around $10 trillion in investment. Without low-cost international finance, the transition could stall long before it gathers pace.

CONTINUED ON P9

Karnataka to get AI-enabled plaint generation system soon

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

HAVE you ever struggled to write a complaint letter to government authorities on water supply, power connection, bad roads or even government schemes? Come December, writing such letters to any government department would be easy.

The Centre for e-Governance Karnataka is developing an Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Grievance Redressal System where one needs to provide only the basic information and the system generates the letter and sends it to the authorities concerned. A complainant can also just give oral instructions and utter a few key words for the system to write the letter. It will be available in both Kannada and English.

The system is still "work under progress". However, there is an integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (iPGRS) that has been functioning since 2021 through which one can raise complaints using the website. Here, one should enter basic details of the complainant, including the name, place, phone number and then look for the department to raise the complaint.

"In the existing system, one has to select the department to raise a complaint. In some cases, people would not know which department to approach, though they have a genuine problem. In the new AI-enabled system, one needs to give just the basic information of the complainant and key words like water supply disruptions for how many days, power cuts, bad roads, money not being credited under schemes and such. **P5**

ALMANAC TODAY
- **Monday:** 10.11.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
- **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Karthika • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Panchami 7.42 am
- **Nakshatra:** Punarvasu 1.12 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 16°C | MAX 29°C

FORECAST Broken clouds

Sunrise 06.16 am | Sunset 05.50 pm | Moonrise 10.48 pm | Moonset 11.08 am

Pollution rises in lakes post monsoon: Study

Study recommends enforcing penalties for untreated sewage discharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A NEW lake health study, covering three major water bodies in Bengaluru -- Ulsoor, Doddabommasandra and Shivapura — has revealed dangerous levels of pollution and a clear link between rapid urbanisation and deteriorating water quality. The study – Lake Health Index by Friends of Lake, a group working on lake rejuvenation and protection -- used citizen volunteers to track seasonal changes in water parameters such as pH, colour, odour, floating garbage and others. Samples were collected during the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon cycles.

Of the three water bodies, Shivapura lake in Peenya, surrounded by heavy industries and receiving untreated effluents and sewage from neighbouring slums, showed the most severe degradation. The lake had black water throughout the year, strong sewage odour and extensive floating garbage accumulation. High levels of Total Dissolved Solids and phosphates indicate heavy industrial discharge and runoff.

In contrast, Doddabommasandra lake — supplied with treated water through a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) — showed better water clarity and fewer signs of eutrophication. Ulsoor Lake showed moderate pollution with greenish water and occasional fish deaths.

Across all three lakes, pollution levels worsened post-monsoon. The study attributes this to rainfall flushing industrial chemicals, sewage and surface pollutants into the lakes, especially from concretised urban catchments. Nutrient levels — nitrate and phosphate — increased sharply after monsoon, indicating eutrophication risk. Higher nutrient loads encourage algal blooms, reduce dissolved oxygen and endanger aquatic life.

Garbage and untreated sewage have reduced Ulsoor Lake, a major water body in the city, to a sewage pond

Shivapura's water quality was so poor that no fishing activity was seen, while Ulsoor and Doddabommasandra continued to support occasional angling — a sign of healthier aquatic balance.

The report notes that Bengaluru's lakes, historically built to harvest rainwater and support agriculture, are now reduced to sewage-fed holding ponds. Encroachment, solid waste dumping, untreated sewage inflow and lack of accountability among agencies have prevented meaningful restoration.

The study also highlights that surrounding land use has direct impact such as residential areas adding detergents and nutrients; farming zones contributing fertiliser runoff; and industrial belts driving spikes in acidity and toxic solids.

The report concludes that lakes surrounded by industrial activity and dense concretised development show the most severe degradation, with most parameters exceeding permissible limits. The study emphasises that lake revival cannot be piecemeal — it must consider the entire ecosystem, including biodiversity, water chemistry and land use patterns.

Key recommendations include, installing efficient effluent treatment plants (ETPs) in industrial belt lakes like Shivapura; strengthening erstwhile BBMP oversight and enforcing penalties for untreated sewage discharge; rolling out the proposed citizen lake health app and allowing residents to test basic water parameters and report violations.

CULTURAL CARNIVAL

People in various traditional dresses from the Northeast attend the North-East Fusion Carnival-2025, on Sunday. The event was held to showcase the cultural heritage and diversity of the eight north-eastern states of India | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Crackdown on plastics to save environment, curb black spots

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

BY aggressively curbing the use of single-use plastics, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is aiming to achieve two major goals with one move -- cut down on plastic use, which is harmful to the environment and ends up in landfills, and curbing black spots in the city.

BWSML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda said Bengaluru generates 500 tonnes of plastic waste every day, and they can recycle only 200 tonnes, so the remaining finds its way to landfills. He said litterbugs find it convenient to stuff their trash into plastic covers and dump it, and this can be checked with curbing plastic use. "We have started clearing black spots in the city. In September, there were 869 black spots, and we got the number down to 150 and striving to bring it down. Through the drives, we found that litterbugs find it very convenient to stuff their garbage into single-use plastic covers and dispose it, creating black spots," Gowda said.

By strictly enforcing single-use plastic ban, we can not only stop them from ending up in landfills, but also address the indiscriminate disposal of garbage in the city, creating black spots and bringing disrepute to the city, he explained.

Gowda said there are 27 assistant executive engineers (AEE), 200 marshals and 200 junior health inspectors. "All of them have been told to conduct raids in their wards five days a week, without fail. While AEEs have been asked to focus on wholesale dealers, others have been directed to raid retailers using single-use plastics," he said.

He said there are many single-use plastic factories in Bengaluru, so the AEEs are targeting wholesale plastic dealers.

Dedicated site to dump inert waste soon

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU will soon get a dedicated site to dump inert waste. With Greater Bengaluru Authority's Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) gearing up to clear lakhs of tonnes of legacy waste lying in landfills around the city, it is estimated that around 800 tonnes of inert waste — the end product of waste generated in the city that cannot disintegrate naturally or chemically — is generated every day.

Looking to dump inert waste, BSWML has zeroed in on an 18-acre site in Kada Agrahara, Mahadevapura. If all goes according to plan, the dumping of inert waste would commence by early next year, and it can take inert waste up to five years, post which other alternatives are under consideration, according to BSWML officials.

"Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, during his inspection of waste processing plants at Seegehalli, Kannahalli and others, had directed officials to clear legacy waste. He instructed that it be reprocessed using a trommel machine and the refuse-derived fuel (RFD) waste be sent to a power generation unit at Bidadi. The inert waste produced should be sent to the designated landfill," said a top BSWML official.

It is estimated that Bengaluru has over one crore tonnes of legacy waste in its landfills. "To clear legacy waste by way of bioremediation, BSWML has invited tenders and soon work will begin. In the process of bioremediation, we get compost and RFD," the official said.

MP Tejasvi Surya completes Ironman 70.3 in Goa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU South MP Tejasvi Surya completed the Ironman 70.3 endurance triathlon in Goa on Sunday, marking his second consecutive finish in one of the world's most challenging fitness events.

The race, which draws elite athletes from over 50 countries, involves 1.9km of open-water swimming, 90km of cycling and a 21.1km half-marathon, all to be completed within a strict cutoff time. Surya finished the course in 7 hours and 49 minutes, clocking 44 minutes for swimming, 3 hours and 47 minutes for cycling and 2 hours and 54 minutes for the run. Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai, who participated alongside Surya, completed the race in 8 hours and 13 minutes.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya during the cycling leg of the Ironman endurance triathlon in Goa on Sunday | EXPRESS

Speaking after the event, Surya said, "The Ironman 70.3 Goa has emerged as one of India's premier endurance events. It is the ultimate test of physical and mental strength. Over the past few months, I trained rigorously to improve my endurance and am delighted to have completed this challenge."

He urged young Indians to take up sports and physical activity as part of their daily routine. "As a finisher of this demanding challenge, I can attest that setting and pursuing fitness goals truly pushes your boundaries and transforms you as an individual. I urge all youngsters to take up a sport and embark on their own fitness journey."

Parasailing, paramotoring restarts at Jakkur

Bengaluru: After a prolonged gap, the Bangalore Aviation Sports Enterprise (BASE) and General Thimayya National Academy of Adventure (GETHNAA) have started parasailing and paramotoring at Jakkur Aerodrome. The adventure sports were stalled in 2017-18 due to permission issues. Now after obtaining all the required permissions from the state government, it is being re-introduced, said Siddharth BK, BASE proprietor. Over time, certified courses will also be introduced. A kilometre-long runway in the aerodrome is being utilised for parasailing. For paramotoring, the 200-acre aerial space of the aerodrome is being utilised. The ongoing flying training at the Jakkur aerospace will not be disturbed during the sporting activities, he said. **ENS**

SAFE CITY

EXTENDED VACCINATION DRIVE LAUNCHED FOR STRAY DOGS

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

WITH frequent cases of Rabies being reported in Bengaluru, Mylos Rescue, a Bengaluru-based animal welfare organisation, has launched an extended vaccination drive for stray dogs across the city, with the programme scheduled to run until March 31, 2026. Since its launch on September 10, the team has vaccinated hundreds of dogs in Bellandur, Iblur, Chandapura, JP Nagar, Mailasandra, and several nearby pockets identified through feeder calls and on-ground assessments.

The drive offers both anti-rabies and nine-in-one DP vaccinations, the latter supported by corporate sponsors to protect dogs from diseases such as distemper, parvovirus and leptospirosis. Residents, animal feeders and community caretakers have been encouraged to bring stray dogs for immunisation, regardless of their previous vaccination history.

To streamline field operations, the organisation is using a digital tracking app that records each dog's photograph, GPS location and sterilisation status. The data will be used to map areas with high numbers of unsterilised dogs and plan targeted sterilisation drives. Such structured documentation remains rare in the management of street dog populations in Indian cities, according to the organisers.

Explaining the need for a prolonged campaign, Mylos Rescue founder Lakshmi Swaminathan said, "We decided to continue beyond the initial phase because earlier this year, we saw repeated rabies concerns in different parts of the country. Many of us wanted to act sooner, but organising something at this scale needed clarity and structure. This drive helps us work more systematically and reach the pockets where help is most needed."

"Our plan is to vaccinate 600-700 dogs every month. By the end of March 2026, the target is to cover 3,000 vaccinations," Lakshmi added.

The initiative is open across Bengaluru, with rural areas included through prior slot booking. For appointments or queries, contact +91 96111 60382, +91 96325 33644, or lakshmi@mylosrescue.com.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

10th November : An Intimate Retrograde Intimacy is tricky business. You want to be adored for the person you are, not the person you have to enact to be useful. However, realness reveals vulnerability and so is inextricably linked to the risk of harm. This early moment of the Mercury retrograde suggests the better you get to know someone, the more accurately you will be able to assess your risk.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You commit to the comfort of others, making things such as food, order, sales and atmosphere. Do you receive the same care? When offered even small tokens, you'll pour appreciation into it because you understand what giving costs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
You think love and understanding should go together, and yet you often have experienced relationships with only one of those things. The incompleteness may actually be part of the attraction now. You're compelled to make the tie more whole.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Don't continue to execute a plan that's draining you. Release control. When you finally stop forcing a direction, another idea falls into the gap, and it's easy for you because your energy is no longer tied up in resistance.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Surprisingly intense emotions come up, and your first instinct might be to push them away. But if you can resist that impulse and stick with the feeling for a moment, it will give you a distinct advantage.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
You will change a pattern in a relationship (like setting a new boundary or trying a softer tone), and the other person will react with confusion. That's just them adjusting to the new dynamic. Keep going until the world catches up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Everything has a price -- dollars, energy, emotion. Something must be exchanged. Today, you will linger in the innocent moment before you learn the cost of a thing. For that childlike bubble of time, life feels wild and free.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
What's happening is something very different from your original idea. It's as though your creation had a mind of its own right out of the gate. Keep the original intent in your back pocket for another day. It's still good, but this rogue runaway is timelier.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
It's pretty common to have an idealized self -- someone you want to be -- and maybe you even thought you'd be that person by now. But who you are is really the best person to be. It's the person this day needs. You'll get proof of that!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Yes, there are a million things to do, but only one that fits perfectly into this day. You'll commit to seeing that task all the way through, and there's peace and self-esteem for you when your head hits the pillow tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
There is no right or wrong way to sense the world. A cat has different senses from a spider, each according to what supports their own survival. You will connect to a scene uniquely today because you sense things others do not.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You'll learn what has structure because you test it. You have to walk away to find out. A friendship survives when you stop initiating every move. A project progresses even when you take a day off.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You can tell what someone values by what they repeat. You'll apply this to yourself today, too, and you'll notice what loops. You'll refine or replace certain thoughts, words and deeds so they better represent your character and heart.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

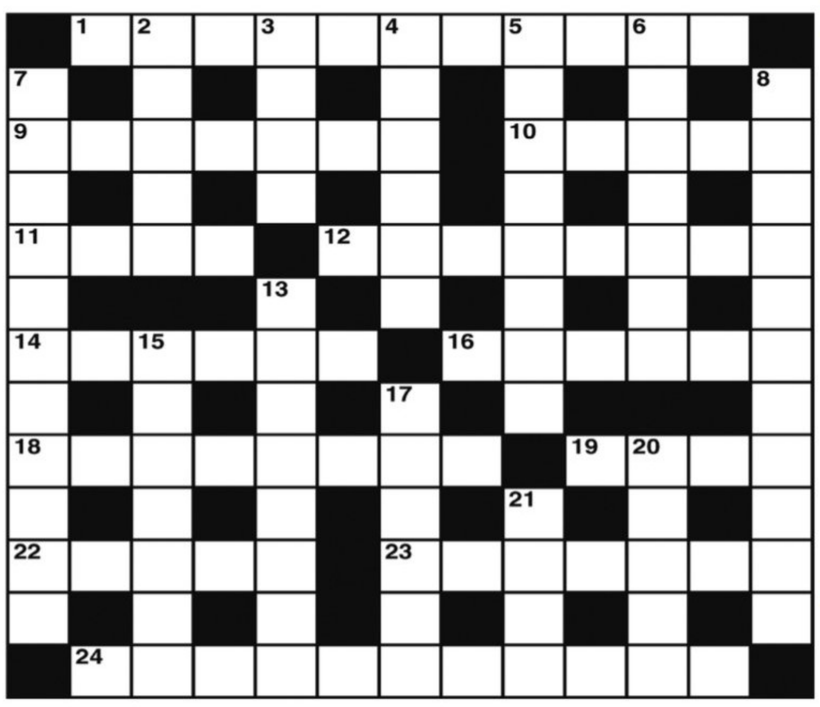
		3	2		1		9	8
	2				3	4		
1		6		5		3		
			3	2				6
7	6		1		5		3	2
5				8	9			
		7		3		1		9
		9	7				8	
3	1		8		2	6		

2	7	1	9	8	4	6	3	5
5	4	8	2	6	3	1	9	7
9	3	6	5	1	7	4	8	2
1	5	7	4	3	9	2	6	8
6	9	4	8	7	2	5	1	3
8	2	3	1	5	6	9	7	4
7	8	5	6	4	1	3	2	9
4	1	9	3	2	8	7	5	6
3	6	2	7	9	5	8	4	1

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 The A-team is involved in rifle events (5,6)
9 Conscience-stricken, has made amends (7)
10 The Irish lost more than half of them (5)
11 Repair an interjection (4)
12 They enter offices uninvited (8)
14 Change planes in Italy (6)
16 Hate to see articles lined up (6)
18 Make a good friend in the accepted way (8)
19 Broken sculpture (4)
22 Become a sitting tenant (5)
23 Dress again in regal fashion (7)
24 Superior mixture of modern paint (11)

DOWN
2 Blood of the gods upsets the choir (5)
3 Rising American politician in the car (4)
4 Describing one with the most experience of life (6)
5 Without an outward appearance? (8)
6 Always set out for the highest peak (7)
7 Strict hand drafts a new order (4,3,4)
8 Looking for golden opportunities? (11)
13 Went dead (8)
15 One after another (7)
17 It rouses after the manner of strong spirit (6)
20 A league match (5)
21 Sea chief (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Mahout, 4 Accident, 9 Lilies, 10 Ascended, 12 Chip, 13 Inlay, 14 Fret, 17 Lighthearted, 20 Ships masters, 23 Hair, 24 Frere, 25 Magi, 28 Rub along, 29 Sandra, 30 Steadies, 31 Poodle.

Down: 1 Molecule, 2 Holdings, 3 Used, 5 Casual remark, 6 Ices, 7 Endure, 8 To date, 11 Intemperance, 15 Itchy, 16 Tease, 18 Retarded, 19 Estimate, 21 Chorus, 22 Viable, 26 Fled, 27 Iago.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

SULOY

POTAD

LWIPOL

GILGEG

And to my granddaughter, I leave the remainder of my estate in order to follow her dreams.
He loved you so much!
It's so generous!
Thank you, Daddy!
SHE INHERITED ENOUGH TO START HER BUSINESS THANKS TO HER GRANDFATHER'S ---
9/15

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BUDDY SHEEP SHADOW BONNET
Answer: Flying kites with the family had its — UPS AND DOWNS

The Shahapur police, in Belagavi, have arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly smoking ganja, that too in a public place. The accused has been identified as Saqib Mahammad Rauf Bepari, a resident of Vishnu Galli near Jamia Masjid, Vadagaon

Double-murder accused attacks police, shot in legs

Accused, a wholesale vegetable dealer, had suffered biz losses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A double-murder accused was shot in both his legs by Hebbagodi police late on Saturday night, after he allegedly attacked officers and tried to escape during a weapon recovery operation. The incident occurred near the Bommasandra crematorium in Anekal taluk, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The accused has been identified as Raviprasad Reddy (40), a resident of Vinayaknagar and native of Andhra Pradesh.

According to police, on November 4, Reddy allegedly murdered a provision store owner by slitting his throat in the Hebbagodi police station limits. Two days later, on November 6, he kidnapped a businessman, Balappa Reddy. Balappa's son lodged a missing complaint the same day and later received a ransom call in English, demanding Rs 2 crore.

Alerted by the family, the police began to suspect Raviprasad's involvement. A special investigation team comprising three inspectors was formed to trace the accused. Investigations revealed that on the day of the abduction itself, Raviprasad had allegedly murdered Balappa, and dumped his body the following night in a forest near Hosur.

DCP (Electronics City) M Narayana said Raviprasad was arrested around 3.30 pm on Saturday. After inspecting the crime scene, the police took him near the Bommasandra crematorium to recover the murder weapon.

"During the operation, the accused attacked head constable Ashok with a dagger hidden at the spot and also tried to assault the inspector. The officer first fired two warning shots, before shooting Raviprasad in both legs, when he refused to surrender," Narayana said.

Raviprasad was later taken to a nearby hospital, and is recovering. The injured constable also received treatment.

Another senior officer said Raviprasad, who was a wholesale vegetable dealer, had suffered heavy losses in business recently. He had approached his friend Madesh for help, but when the latter refused, Raviprasad allegedly planned to kidnap him. When Madesh resisted, he killed him. Raviprasad, a former tenant of Balappa's house, later tried to kidnap the landlord, and murdered him when he resisted, as well.

Police said Raviprasad had no prior criminal record.

Raviprasad Reddy; (right) Police officers keep watch over the accused in hospital, after he was taken there on being shot in his legs | EXPRESS

First-year nursing student sexually harassed by three minors

BENGALURU: A first-year nursing student was allegedly sexually harassed and abused by three minor boys. The incident occurred within the Bagalur Police Station limits on October 29. The police registered a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case on Sunday. According to the police, the victim and the accused are natives of Kerala and are pursuing their first year of nursing at a private college. On October 29, the accused allegedly sexually harassed and abused the victim. A POCSO case has been registered, and a manhunt has been launched to trace the accused. **ENS**

2 youths die after bike hits divider

BENGALURU: Two youths died on the spot after their two-wheeler hit a road divider near Horohalli Road in Magadi taluk on Sunday morning. The deceased are Keshav Prasad (21) and Mayur (20), both residents of Bengaluru. According to police, around 7 am, the duo was travelling from Bengaluru towards Hassan when the rider, Prasad, lost control of the bike near Horohalli and rammed into a road divider. Both sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. The Kudur police visited the spot, conducted an inspection, and shifted the bodies for postmortem.

UCO Bank hosts carnival

BENGALURU: UCO Bank organised a MSME AGRI & Resources Carnival at its Ramamurthynagar branch on Wednesday. The event was headed by GM (Resources) Amit Shrivastava, DGM Rajesh Kumar and DZM Mahesh Kumar. The bank's MSME, AGRI & Resources products were discussed and sanction letters were issued to customers. A financial literacy camp was organised in Mount Carmel College and awareness about financial products was imparted to students.

Bank of Baroda organises Kisan Mela

BENGALURU: Bank of Baroda organised a Mega Kisan Mela in Chikkaballapur as part of the 8th Baroda Kisan Pakhwada on Thursday. The theme of the fair was 'Towards Atmanirbharta'. Financial literacy sessions were held with 1,800 farmers. During the event, the bank arranged for display of agricultural equipment, including drones that can be utilised in farming. Chikkaballapur DC Ravindra P N, Officer on Special Duty to Department of Agriculture Dr A B Patil, BoB's Executive Director Beena Vaheed, and several representatives of the bank, including General Manager of Bengaluru zone Anil Srivastava, Deputy General Manager (Business Development) Sumit Mishra and Regional Head (Bengaluru Rural) Ravi Pathak were present.

Subbanna, a security guard, was presented with two hearing aids in recognition of his service by CA Suresh Babu, secretary of Dr SR Chandrashekar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bengaluru

SHOWCASING TALENT

Students of Natyakala Institution participate in a cultural programme organised by the Art Cultural Educational Enlight Foundation at Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

TWO BOYS DROWN IN LAKE NEAR ATTIBELE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO boys drowned in a lake at Balluru village in Attibele, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Saturday evening. Their bodies were recovered on Sunday afternoon by personnel of the Fire and Emergency Services.

The deceased are identified as Aniket Kumar (8), a Class 3 student at a government school and a native of Bihar, and Rehmat Baba (11), a Class 4 student and a native of Andhra Pradesh. Their parents, who work as daily wage labourers, live in Balluru village. According to police, the boys had gone to the lake on Saturday evening and were playing near the bund. They reportedly entered the water and drowned as they did not know how to swim. When they did not return home, their parents searched for them in vain.

Villagers who had seen the boys playing near the lake alerted the parents, following which police and rescue teams were informed. A case of unnatural death has been registered at the Attibele police station.

Rising intolerance behind spurt in murders

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

PETTY issues that could have been easily resolved are increasingly escalating into violent brawls, often ending up in loss of lives. Over the past 2.8 years, the state witnessed 293 cases of murder and 766 cases of attempted murder, all triggered by sudden provocations. Experts opine that people are becoming increasingly intolerant, with the normalisation of violence through movies worsening the situation.

Recently, a labourer beat his co-worker to death for cooking non-vegetarian food during a festival. In another incident, a delivery executive was killed in a road rage case after his two-wheeler brushed against a car.

According to official data, till September this year, 77 cases of murder and 104 cases of attempted murder prompted by sudden provocation were registered across the state. In 2024, there were 104 cases of murder and 274 cases of attempted murder, while in 2023, the figures stood at 112 and 253, respectively.

Whitefield DCP K Parashurama told *TNIE*, "Stress, financial struggles and alcohol dependency make people react violently to minor provocations. The easy availability of weapons is one of the major reasons why such scuffles often turn fatal." He said these are not premeditated murders. "In some cases, mental health factors have also contributed."

Another senior police officer said people today have less patience and are quick to react aggressively. "Most individuals lack control over their emotions. While some may be drunk, others are simply unable to tolerate a situation. Their high-handed attitude often leads to sudden provocation."

Ego often plays a major role in cases of road rage, the officer said. "When someone feels insulted in front of their family or loved ones, it triggers their ego, leading to arguments that escalate to physical fights, sometimes even causing death."

NIMHANS Director Dr Pratima Murthy told *TNIE* that several factors contribute to sudden provocation. She said, "People are exposed to a lot of violence through news reporting, social media and other sensational content. There is also a lot of normalisation of violence in movies, as well as programmes on OTT platforms. This has led to increasing impatience and intolerance."

She added, "People are already on edge, and it takes a small trigger to set them off. Anger is an expression of personal distress. People need to learn to express their distress in healthier ways and to control their anger. That is what mental health is all about – controlling one's thoughts, feelings and emotions. Seeking help when distressed is crucial so that anger doesn't manifest in such undesirable ways."

HOMICIDE, NOT MURDER

A police officer said, "Most of these cases are initially registered as murder. However, after investigation, if it is found that the killing took place because of sudden provocation, the charge is altered to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. There is a hairline difference between the two offences." The officer said proving murder in cases of sudden provocation is often difficult because of the lack of intent. "There is usually no conspiracy or motive behind such acts. During a quarrel, the one person may assault the other without intending to kill. The act is often a result of a temporary loss of control rather than a planned attack," he said.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
E-Tender Notice

On behalf of Sr. Regional Electrical Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Shirwad, Karwar invites Sealed Bids are invited from experienced contractors for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV, 50Hz, Single phase, Traction Over Head Equipment for Proposed construction of full length Siding of CONCOR at Balli station of Konkan Railway under Karwar Region. **E-Tender No. KR-KW-EL-T-17-2025-RT, Date: 10/11/2025. Cost of work :** ₹ 115.45 lakh (excluding GST), **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid** : 02/12/2025 up to 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit : www.ireps.gov.in

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(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
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Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tender through MSTC Portal: -

1. **DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING & TRAINING WITH OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF 3.17 MWp ROOFTOP SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT WITHOUT BATTERY BANK (GRID INTERACTIVE) AT ROOFTOP OF MAIN PRESS AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI: MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/30/25-26/ET/54 [3170 KWp ROOFTOP SOLAR PLANT]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 016/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2025-26; [ESTIMATED COST -₹1985.00 LAKH)**

Last date of tender submission - **12.12.2025 by 11:00 Hrs.** For downloading tender document and other details, kindly visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com**. Tender details are also available at our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on the above websites.

Senior General Manager

गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एण्ड इंजीनियर्स लिमिटेड
Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Govt. of India Undertaking) रक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
Regd and Corp Office: GRSE BHAVAN, 61, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700024
Web: www.grse.in, (CIN: L35111WB1934GOI007891)

EXPRESSION OF INTERST (EOI) FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION
EOI No.: SCC/AKD/61P/ GREEN TUG/08/EOI-046

Sub: TURNKEY SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL PACKAGE FOR GTTP TUG

Due Date: 14 days from the date of publication

1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal **https://eprocuregrse.co.in;** Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/** and GRSE website **https://grse.in/tender-published/.**
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this EOI including change in dates, if any, will be published in above websites only.

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No.: IIIT-Bh/Faculty/2025/596 Date : 08.11.2025

RECRUITMENT / ADMISSION NOTICE

IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.

Applications are invited for recruitment of **Contractual Faculty** (CSE, Mathematics, Chemistry, Management) and **Visiting Faculty** (CSE, Mathematics).

Applications are also invited for **Doctoral Programme** and **Post Doctoral Programme** (CSE, ETC, Mathematics) for Spring Session (January 2026).

For further details, Please visit :**https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/**

REGISTRAR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

Form No. 22 and 18
General Notice in respect of Interlocutary Application and Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 41 Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1, 2, 4 and 11 of Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

MFA No. 2154/2017 (MV/SJ)

Appellant : 1. G. MURTHY S/o. Govindaswamy, Aged about 48 years, No.2, 1 Hulimavu, 3rd Cross, Opp: Star Bakery, Near Srirama Temple, B.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 076.
By Sri. S.N. Sameer, Adv.,
Vs
Respondent : 1. ICICI LOMBARD HOUSE, 414, Veer Savarkar Marg, Near Siddhi Vinayak Temple, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025. Branch Office at No.89, 2nd Floor, SVR Complex, Ayyapa Temple, Bangalore -560 068.
Policy No. 3005/2010703360/00/0000016685 Valid From 19.06.2014 To 18.06.2015
Insurer of the Honda Motor Cycle KA-51-EK-5259 (DIO). And Another
Appeal From the Judgement/Award/Order passed on Dated 08/07/2016 in MVC Number 2807/2015 on the file of the MEMBER, MACT, XVI ADDL. JUDGE, COURT OF SMALL CAUSES, BANGALORE (SCCH-14), IA No. 1/2017 for condone the delay of 149 days in filing the above appeal.
To: RESPONDENT NO.2 : 2 . YAGANDAR BABU S/o Subramanya, Aged about 32 years, No. 393/1, Near Kempamma Temple, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 076.
Whereas the aforementioned Appeal preferred has been registered by this Court.
NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law to act for you in this case **on 28/11/2025 at 10.30 a.m.,** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 27th DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Government of India
Ministry of Education
National Institutional Ranking Framework

INDIA RANKINGS 2026

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2026, the eleventh edition of this annual exercise.

All the institutions that have participated in the previous India Rankings exercise have been pre-registered. An email in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective institutions to confirm institution details for the India Rankings 2026.

In case your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner and wishes to participate in India Rankings 2026, you are requested to visit our website, i.e., www.nirfindia.org, and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at helpdesk@nirfindia.org or call at 011-40159583/87/89.

Registrations will open from 10th November 2025.

cbc21315/12/0001/2526

Member Secretary

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NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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FORM No. 19
NOTICE FOR APPEARANCE PETITIONS RULES 1, 2, 4 AND 11 OF CHAPTER XIII (KARNATAKA HIGH COURT RULES)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Respondent No. 1 & 2 vide Court Order dated : 29.10.2025

CRP No. 193/2020

BETWEEN : SMT. J. SHAILA, D/o Late M. Jayarama Reddy W/o Kumar G, Aged about 43 years R/at No. 150, II Floor, 6th Cross Road, Shastri Nagar, Banashankari, Bangalore 560028. **...PETITIONER**
(By Sri./Smt. : G A Srikante Gowda & Gagan S, Advs for Petitioner)
AND : SMT. NIRMALA, W/o Late M. Jayarama Reddy, Aged about 67 years, R/at Plot No. 204, IInd Brigade May Fair Apartments, No.22, Cambridge Layout Road, Halsoor, Bangalore 560020 & Others. **...RESPONDENTS**
To, RESPONDENT No. 1 & 2
1. SMT. NIRMALA, W/o Late M. Jayarama Reddy, Aged about 67 years,
2. SHRI. OMPRAKASH .J S/o Late M. Jayarama Reddy, Aged about 41 years, Both are R/at Plot No. 204, IInd Brigade May Fair Apartments, No.22, Cambridge Layout Road, Halsoor, Bangalore-560020.
CRP Filed under sec. 115 of CPC., against the order dated 30.11.2019 passed on IA in OS No. 4671/2012 on the file of the Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bangalore parity allowing the IA filed under order 23 R1(3) of CPC.,
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court in person or through an advocate duly instructed or through someone authorized by law to act for you in the **CRP No.193/2020 on 17.11.2025 at 10.30 a.m** on which date the case will be posted for orders/hearing, in case you intend to contest the CRP. If you fail to appear the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
Issued under my hand and the seal of the court, This the 29th day of October 2025.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

KANARA EDUCATION SOCIETY'S (Regd), KUMTA.
WANTED

As per Order No: ಜಿ7/ಹುತಾಜ/ಕೆನರಾ.ವಿ.ಸೊ/20/2025-26/1744 dated 16-10-2025 of the Honourable Additional Commissioner, Department of School Education, Dharwad, applications are invited from eligible candidates for the vacant Assistant Teacher posts in the high schools run by the Kanara Education Society (Regd.), Kumta, Uttara Kannada District.

Sl. No	Name of Schools	No.of. Posts	Post Details	Medium of Teaching	Qualification	Reservation	Pay Scale
01	Gibb High School, Kumta. Dist: Uttar Kannada.	01	Assistant Teacher Science (C.B.Z)	Kannada	B.sc B.Ed	Reservation Rules are Not Applicable.	(54175-99400)
02	Gibb Girl's High School, Kumta. Dist: Uttar Kannada.	01	Assistant Teacher English Language	English	B.A B.Ed		(54175-99400)
03		01	Assistant Teacher Science (P.C.M)	Kannada	B.sc B.Ed		(54175-99400)
04	Mahatma Gandhi High School, Chitragi, Kumta. Dist: Uttar Kannada.	01	Assistant Teacher Hindi Language	Hindi	B.A B.Ed		(54175-99400)

As per notification no. ed 291 lbp 2015, dated: 29/09/2016, Eligible candidates must submit their application with complete information and attested copies of documents to the address shown below within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. A copy of the application also be submitted to the Deputy Director, Department of School Education, Uttara Kannada. The Candidates must have all the original documents within the application period. Candidates must submit a Bank Demand Draft (DD) for **Rs.1500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred Only)** in favor of the Secretary, Kanara Education Society (Regd.) Kumta, Uttara Kannada District. The DD amount is non-refundable. Applications with incomplete information or those received after the stipulated date will be rejected without any intimation/response and will not be returned. The date of the interview will be intimated later.

Place: Kumta
Date: 10-11-2025

Sd/-
Secretary
Kanara education Soiety`s (R)
Glbb Circle, Kumta -Uttar Kannada,

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MAN, BEAST & BUREAUCRACY

INSIDE MYSURU'S ESCALATING TIGER WAR

Villagers on the Bandipur fringes live on the edge as the tiger hunt heats up, leaving cubs without a mother, and families without fathers

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

THE clang of a school bell echoes through Hale Heggudilu, but not many students returned to their houses. Instead, children gathered in small clusters outside the school gate, watching a convoy of jeeps, police vans and private cars snaking into their village. The sight of white SUVs with beacon lights and khaki-clad men was unusual in this remote forest fringe village of Saragur taluk.

At the centre of the crowd lay the small house of Danda Nayaka alias Chowda Nayaka, a 48-year-old farmer and labourer who had been mauled to death by a tiger only hours earlier. As politicians, forest officers arrived to console the family, the village stood with murmurs of disbelief. "Come home before dark," parents called out. By the time Nayaka's body was taken for postmortem, the narrow lanes of Hale Heggudilu had fallen silent. Not a single villager dared to step out.

This is not a scene at this particular village. Dread now stalks every village along the edge of Saragur taluk -- from Badagalapura to Bennegere, Kurnegala to Mullur. As dusk falls, doors are bolted, fields abandoned.

When fear becomes routine

The people of Saragur, once accustomed to living alongside wildlife, now live in terror. Four tiger attacks in 20 days have turned the region into a zone of panic. There is also fear of leopards and elephants entering the village.

"We have always seen elephants and even tigers from afar," said Mahadevaiah, a resident of Hale Heggudilu. "But they never attacked humans. Now, three men have been killed within 20 days. We have stopped going to our fields at night," he said.

This wave of attacks has exposed more than just human fear; it has laid bare the deep cracks in the state's wildlife governance, political interference and conservation ethics.

Chain of deaths

The blood trail began on October 16, when Madegowda (48) of Badagalapura was mauled by a tiger. He survived, but remains under treatment in Mysuru. Ten days later, on October 26, Rajashekar, a farmer from Bennegere, was killed near Mullur. On October 31, Doddaningaiah (65) of Kurnegala was attacked while grazing cattle. And finally, on November 7, came Danda Nayaka's death in Hale Heggudilu.

When Nayaka's oxen returned home, the yoke ropes still tied to their necks, his wife Rukmini sensed something was wrong. She rushed to the field with neighbours, only to find blood on the soil. A gruesome trail led them to a pit where Nayaka's body lay, partly eaten. Ironically, he had survived an elephant attack a few months ago. This time, fate didn't spare him.

In the aftermath of all these attacks, the Karnataka forest department launched combing operations and a tiger-capture drive that experts describe as a panic operation. Within 20 days, five tigers including cubs, were caught but no one is sure if they are the ones responsible for the killings in the region.

BIG PICTURE

Two cubs, separated from their mother during one such operation, have been shifted from Bennegere village to Bannerghatta Rescue and rehabilitation centre. Another one-and-a-half year old female tiger cub was rescued at Hosavindu village on November 5, while an eight-year-old tigress was captured on October 28 at Anjanapura village. In the latest operation, another tiger was captured on the night of November 8 -- a 10-12 year-old male tiger, which forest officials say is behind all these killings, but this can be confirmed only through various modes and guidelines set by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

A hack job, say experts

Wildlife biologists have condemned the random captures, saying they violate NTCA protocol. "Had DNA samples been collected from the first kill in Badagalpura, we could have identified the actual tiger scientifically. Instead, they started catching every tiger in sight," a retired wildlife officer said.

The blame, many say, lies in the appointment of officers at Bandipur's Hediyala sub-division, which are done due to political pressure. Officers who had worked in Social Forestry and with no background in wildlife management, are posted to a tiger conflict hotspot. Even Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre was misled by his subordinates and instead of experienced hands, the department fielded rookies in the wild.

"Posting an officer without field experience when tiger movement is at its peak is reckless," said a retired officer from Bandipur Tiger Reserve, on condition of anonymity. "Now after three lives are lost, the department has transferred officials," he said in anger.

The man-eating tiger could still be at large, as there is no confirmation yet, while innocent tigers have been tranquillised, trapped and relocated.

Meanwhile, a turf war within the department has paralysed action. Insiders describe a war of attrition between honest and corrupt range forest officers. Bandipur Field Director S Prabhakaran, who has been transferred, was caught in the crossfire, a senior wildlife source revealed. "Some range officers are working sincerely, others are sabotaging operations for vested interests," alleged a farmer leader in the village.

Illegal resorts and the quiet invasion

Behind the veneer of conservation lies another aberration -- the mushrooming of illegal resorts and homestays around Bandipur, Nugu and Kabini backwaters. "These so-called 'eco-resorts' or luxury resorts have fragmented tiger corridors and pushed animals deeper into human zones," said advocate Ravi Kumar, who has filed multiple petitions against unauthorised resorts in Kabini under the 'Save Kabini' banner.

"When humans occupy buffer zones, tigers are forced to change their routes and conflict becomes inevitable," he said.

Tourist vehicles, safaris and open campsites add to the disturbance. The forest, once a sanctuary, has turned into a stage for selfies and safaris.

Where are the wildlife vets?

The chaos has also exposed a chronic shortage of qualified veterinary officers in Karnataka's wildlife division. Most veterinarians posted in tiger landscapes come from the animal husbandry department with little exposure to handling big cats.

"There should be a permanent cadre for wildlife veterinarians," said a former NTCA advisor. "The Forest Minister made this announcement but it is gathering dust and will never see the light of day. Every tranquillisation operation is risky; one mistake can lead to loss of both human and animal life."

Recently, a pregnant Indian gaur was killed in a botched operation at Bannerghatta. "This incident speaks volumes about the lack of professionalism and the secrecy maintained in the forest department," the activist added.

Minister steps in

Following the series of attacks, Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre suspended safari operations in Bandipur and Nagarahole until further notice. "These incidents are deeply distressing," he said in a written directive to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Khandre also halted trekking in vulnerable zones and directed all staff, from vehicle drivers to forest guards, to join the search operations. An 8-point action plan was drawn up, including deployment of 50 additional field staff for 15 days around Saragur. But villagers say the extra personnel have made little difference. "They come in the morning, take photos, and leave before dusk," said an angry farmer in Bennegere. "Who will protect us in the night?"

For families like Nayaka's, life will never be the same. His widow, Rukmini, now faces the prospect of raising two children alone. Compensation has been promised, but life?

NTCA SOPs, protocols violated?

In most of the operations that took place in the past month, the forest department allegedly failed to follow rigorous protocol and standard operating procedures laid down by the NTCA.

During the first operation to capture an elusive tiger on October 16 at Badagalapura, while it's mandatory to announce Section 144 in the region, a 300-400-strong crowd interfered with the operations and turned it into a travesty. An injured person had pelted stones on the tigress and three cubs. With a tiger suspected to have killed a human, such operations are necessary. Though identification protocol suggests conducting DNA analysis, gathering pug mark and stripe pattern data to identify the animal, forest officials failed to follow this integrated approach. It could be either due to pressure or failure of the veterinary expert in the team, but it led to failure in human-wildlife conflict management.

Forest officials in the region are tight-lipped before the media, and have neither issued press releases or held media briefings, thereby failing to sensitise villagers in the region through the media or are hiding facts from media houses.

Demand for relocation

"If the government gives us alternate land, we will move out," said Mahadevaiah's wife. "We cannot live like prisoners."

In Hale Heggudilu, fear reigns. Most villagers are daily-wage labourers or small farmers earning Rs 300-400 a day. They rely on corn, ragi and minor forest produce. "There is no question of working late anymore," said Danda Nayaka's neighbour, holding her child close. "Once the sun sets, we shut the doors and wait till morning. We can't even send the men to guard the fields."

Alcohol has become both a comfort and a curse in these parts. "After dusk, men drink to forget fear but this also leads to negligence as some wander out drunk and fall prey to wild animals," said a village leader.

Villagers say that earlier, they would let cattle graze freely in forest fringes, losing a few to predators each year. But strict forest department orders prohibit this practice. "Now that even livestock are confined, tigers have no easy prey so they turn to humans," said Mahadevaiah.

A larger question at the heart of this tragedy raises a fundamental question: How does a state known for its tiger reserves lose both lives and credibility so fast?

Bandipur, once a pride, is now a symbol of chaos. Conservationists point to a dangerous trend, where political interference, administrative inexperience and human greed have diluted the scientific foundation of tiger management.

Meanwhile, farmers, labourers and tribals on the fringes continue to live between two dangers: the wild outside and neglect inside. It is time, say conservationists, to stop the anti-wildlife frenzy sweeping the region, before the fear of the tiger becomes the death of coexistence itself.

BIG CAT ATTACKS

OCT 16, 2025 Madegowda (48) of Badagalapura injured, under treatment

OCT 26 Rajashekar of Bennegere (Mullur GP) killed

OCT 31 Doddaningaiah (65) of Kurnegala killed near forest border

NOV 7 Danda Nayaka (48) of Hale Heggudilu killed while ploughing field

Had DNA samples been collected from the first kill in Badagalpura, we could have identified the actual tiger scientifically. Instead, they started catching every tiger in sight

- A retired forest officer

A tiger that was tranquilised and captured by foresters recently

Children come out of their homes into a deserted Hale Heggudilu, following the death of Danda Nayaka

PIC: UDAYASHANKAR S

Forest staff on elephants in search of the elusive tiger

The house of Danda Nayaka, who was killed by a tiger

'VOTE THEFT'

DKS to submit 1.12 cr signatures to brass today

ENS @ Bengaluru

DCM and KPCC chief DK Shivakumar, along with his team of party office-bearers, is expected to submit the 1.12 crore signatures, collected from across Karnataka as part of the the campaign against 'vote theft', to AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal in New Delhi on Monday.

The AICC plans to submit the same to the ECI and the President, seeking action against the BJP, which it had alleged to have indulged in theft of votes in the previous elections, including to the 2024 Lok Sabha.

The boxes of signatures, precisely 1,12,40,000, collected from 40 party organisational districts, are being transported on cargo flights to the national capital. As Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had launched the 'vote chori' campaign from Bengaluru, the State Congress had enthusiastically launched the signature campaign. There is also a massive rally being planned at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi on November 25.

KPCC working president GC Chandrashekar and DCC chiefs from across the state will accompany Shivakumar.

Sugar factory owners will accept govt's decision, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said here on Sunday that sugar factory owners will accept the government's proposal to increase the sugarcane procurement price to Rs 3,300 per tonne and ensure that the problems are resolved.

Addressing the media during a stopover here, he said that sugar factory owners, on their part, should pay Rs 50 more per tonne to farmers, while the government will pay Rs 50 as subsidy. The discussion on other demands of farmers will be decided in their presence, he added.

On opposition leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal raising doubts over factory owners accepting the proposal, he said the government will initiate action against errant sugar factory owners.

He said taluk and zilla panchayat elections will be held as per directions of the court, which is hearing the issue.

On RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat stating that RSS was registered during British times, the CM said, "We never spoke of banning RSS. But we have passed orders stating that all organisations planning to hold activities on government property should take permission from concerned deputy commissioners. Our statements have been twisted. If they think in other terms, we cannot do anything," he added.

He said crops in over 11 lakh hectares across the state have been damaged due to rain and the Centre has to release the compensation.

On the Valmiki community's request to give a ministerial berth to one of their leaders, the CM said he will consider it when he expands the cabinet.

Tiger had no canines because of its advanced age

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE veterinarians removed the metal snare from its neck and treated a one-inch-deep wound caused by the snare with antibiotics. Officials suspect that the tiger might have caught in a poachers' snare around six weeks ago. The big cat was later placed in a cage and transported around 2 am on Sunday to the Chamundi Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Koorgalli on Mysuru-Hunsur Road.

The tiger had no canines because of its old age, rendering it unable to to hunt wild prey and forcing it to target livestock and people in villages along forest fringes.

Khandre orders DNA test

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre announced on X that the tiger responsible for repeated attacks on people and livestock in Saragur taluk over the past month had been captured. "I instructed officials to compare the postmortem reports of the victims with the DNA sample of the captured tiger to confirm that this was the tiger responsible for the deaths," he stated.

"Officials informed me that the captured male tiger, around 12-13 years old, had lost its ability to hunt and was attacking villagers. Senior wildlife officials have been directed to monitor tiger movements near human settlements and take appropriate preventive measures," he said.

Meanwhile, tiger pugmarks were spotted in an agricultural field belonging to Dhanagahalli Kendagannappa in Kadu Vaddaragudi village near Gaddige in Hunsur taluk in Mysuru district. The villagers urged the department to capture the animal.

CM Siddaramaiah addresses a gathering at the inauguration of projects in Kudligi on Sunday | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

CM SAYS WILL SERVE FULL TERM, LOOKS AT DKS, CHANGES TONE

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Kudligi, Hosapete

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah's public remarks on Sunday again stirred speculation of a possible change in leadership in the state government. At a public event in Kudligi to inaugurate various development projects, Siddaramaiah initially asserted that he will "continue as chief minister", reaffirming his intention to serve the full term. But moments later, after glancing towards Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and media, he noticeably shifted his phrasing referring instead to "our government" rather than his individual role.

The subtle change in tone drew attention amid rumours of differences within Congress over leadership change. Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have publicly denied any plans for a change, insisting that the government remains "stable and united".

Political observers noted the timing of his comments and their potential implications for both state politics and Congress' image ahead of upcoming elections. At the event, Siddaramaiah launched a sharp attack on BJP, alleging that the party continued its practice of "vote chori" in the Bihar elections, undermining the democratic process. He said Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has betrayed sugarcane farmers, as both the FRP and MSP are determined by the BJP-led Centre. "It was Joshi and Centre that deceived our sugarcane farmers," he charged.

He said BJP state president Vijayendra, instead of questioning his own party's betrayal, is trying to cover it up by staging protest dramas in Belagavi. "Though the Central government failed our farmers, the state government stepped in to provide additional financial support and protect our sugarcane growers."

Two people died as the car in which they were travelling plunged into a canal at Hosur village in Channagiri taluk on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Mallikarjun (29) and Siddesh (38). The duo were travelling in a car along with six others who were on a tour to Mangalore and were returning to Davanagere

'Contribute to kids' interests at all levels'

Experts urge parents not to have a dogmatic approach; say need to bridge gap between teens & parents' psyches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

"OUR children do what we do, not what we (merely) say," said author and scientist Sujata Kelkar Shetty on Sunday, in a panel discussion on 'Resilient Teen Parenting in the Digital Age' at the Manotsava National Mental Health Festival on Sunday. She shared the stage with Prof Deepti Navratna of the National Institute of Advanced Studies and Angad Singh Malik, an impact strategist at Eight Goals One Foundation, with the session being moderated by Chitra Iyer of Space2Grow.

The panel discussion aimed at bridging the gap between the teen and parental psyches, which was posited as one of the key determinants in teenagers' social isolation post the Covid-19 pandemic. "The brain of a child is like a 'Ferrari' with bicycle breaks. Their frontal lobes are developing, and they process information at a rapid pace. They feel a lot," said Kelkar.

Navratna focused on social media and the rise of doomscrolling, saying, "When a teen is constantly on the phone, their brains constantly produce dopamine. The brain stays in a high arousal state; in this state, there is not enough room for narrative processing."

Perhaps, the most interesting perspective was brought forth by Malik, who stood to destigmatise the realm of video games as something monolithically detrimental to the mental wellbeing of teens. "Video games are a broad spectrum, from the puzzles you solve on your phone, to AAA games played on consoles. My advice to parents would be to let go of their preconceived notions about video games as inherently violent or destructive. Try to think of them from the lens of your kids," he said. Malik also highlighted the need to genuinely contribute to children's interests and engage with them on their levels, instead of a dogmatic approach.

Visitors try out Inner Planeta's creative twist on the classic snakes and ladders game at Manotsava 2025, to highlight mental health journeys and the ups and downs of emotional well-being in children, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'Suicide a public health crisis, needs to be addressed on priority'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

"SUICIDE has become a public health issue in India. The number of suicides in the age-group of 15-29 years or even younger is increasing by the day. However, the attention that's being given to it is less," said child and adolescence psychiatrist Dr Kavitha Arora.

Speaking at a panel session, 'Panel Suicidality: A concern for all', at Manotsava 2025 here on Sunday, Dr Kavitha highlighted that only mental health disorders cannot be reasons for suicide. "There are different reasons if a person dies by suicide. Farmers' suicide are due to economic issues, in other cases it might be due to discrimination, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, among others. This issue needs to be addressed on priority."

The panel also involved Naveen Kumar of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and Arjun Kapoor of the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy (CMHLP), with Neha Kirpal from Amaha Health as moderator. "Telemanas has received over 25 lakh distress calls from October 2022, of which, 40,000 were related to suicides. While some state governments, including those of Meghalaya and Maharashtra, have their own mental health policies, it's not enough. We need to have mental health programmes at the district level too. It must be mandated that these concepts are included in the school curriculum, so that such cases may be prevented," Kumar explained.

"It's not the responsibility of one department; all departments need to work together and take multi-sectoral initiatives, as there are various reasons for suicide," he added.

Kapoor emphasised on overcoming fear and shame to talk about suicidal feelings. "We need to start these conversations at home. It is essential to overcome shame and fear, and these conversations must be brought into the mainstream. Besides, criminalisation of suicide prevents people from reporting it to the police or even discussing it. Therefore, governance and policies must be framed in the interest of the public to prevent suicide."

Need a city where you can sit, watch world go by: Panelists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ONE of the final panel discussions on the second day of the Manotsava National Mental Health Festival focused on 'Urban Minds: How Our Cities Shape Our Lives', bringing in Bengaluru and other cities as loci of mental distress, and how they must be reimagined. The panel consisted of National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences' (NIMHANS) Dr Arvind BA, The Common Ground Project founder Benson Issac, and Christ University's Prof Anitha Suseelan, with Sneha Shashidhara of Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (Ashoka University) acting as moderator.

"We don't want much – we just want a city where you can sit down on a bench on the side of a street, and watch the world go by," asserted Issac, a plea that underscores the monumental impact on mental health that basic infrastructural improvements can have.

A key part of the discussion focused on how there is no monolithic experience of the city, how it changes from person to person, and how the dichotomy of attraction and repulsion works. "We need to not romanticise cities, and remember that they are built upon inequalities of gender, class, caste and more," warned Issac, with Dr Arvind, adding, "One in 10 people in Bengaluru suffer from mental morbidity; in the city's slums, it is one out of four," Suseelan reiterated the aspect of differing experiences, adding that in the constant stress of the city, memory begins to degrade from persistent stressors, mainly heat and noise.

Lung cancer cases up among non-smokers

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

DURING Lung Cancer Awareness Month, city doctors are reporting a worrying trend of a rise in lung cancer among non-smokers, with a growing number of cases among women aged late 20s to 60. Specialists say this shift, observed steadily over the past decade, challenges the long-held belief that lung cancer is primarily a smoker's disease.

Dr Sai Vivek V, Consultant in Medical Oncology and Haemato-Oncology, said nearly 30% of lung cancer cases now occur in people who have never smoked, many of them middle-aged women. "We are seeing women in their late 20s presenting with lung cancer despite no history of smoking. Genetic mutations like EGFR and ALK, often triggered by pollution and environmental chemicals, play a major role," he said. Dr Sudharshan KS, Consultant Pulmonologist at TriLife Hospital, added, "Pollution and passive smoking at home are major contributors. The myth that lung cancer does not affect women delays diagnosis." He noted that while smoking among women has increased, lung cancer in non-smokers is also on the rise. Supporting this, Dr Vinayak Maka, Consultant, Medical Oncology at Ramaiah Institute of Oncosciences, said most non-smoker lung cancers are gene-driven. "They are genetically predisposed, and lifestyle factors trigger the disease. Genetic testing often reveals mutations that respond well to targeted therapy, allowing patients to live for years," he said.

Dr Sunil Kumar K, Lead Consultant, Interventional Pulmonology at Aster CMI Hospital, said, "Many women ignore symptoms like persistent cough or breathlessness because they prioritise family needs. Some feel shy discussing health issues or avoid hospitals due to fear of costs. In rural areas, limited access and low awareness worsen delays." Dr Rajeev Vijayakumar, HOD & Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology at Gleneagles BGS Hospital, said misconceptions remain a major barrier to early detection. "Because lung cancer is strongly associated with smoking, many women, and even some healthcare providers, fail to consider it in non-smokers. Persistent cough or chest discomfort is often dismissed as allergies or infection," he said.

Care for pets as own kids: Activists

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

DAYS after a domestic worker was booked for killing a pet dog and later trying to disavow it, a question lingers: how to ensure that such cruelty to animals is not repeated? What can pet owners do to allay their worst fears? Animal rights workers in the city believe that properly vetting the worker or caretaker is a necessary first step, but the answer does not stop there.

"Someone who loses their temper easily is more likely to extend that to a pet. I'd advise anyone hiring domestic staff to do due diligence equivalent to what they would do when hiring a nanny for their child," says Sanjana Madappa, Trustee at Second Chance Sanctuary.

"Compassion cannot be taught. For a caretaker, it is important to see the pet owner treating the pet as a child; this is an important aspect of sensitisation," adds Kamini Nanda, who takes care of rescue dogs.

Irrespective of the heinous nature of the crime, it is also important to look outside of it. A wider conversation is incumbent on pet owners and the cruelty they often enact at home, ranging from being apathetic and treating their pets as accessory to deliberately abusing them, further aggravating their tempers. It is also important to note that while frustration is an unacceptable excuse, domestic workers are stretched thin with a litany of household chores, and pet owners entrust the pets' care, too, onto the former.

Co-founder of Citizens for Animal Birth Control Harini Raghavan said, "There is a distinction between pet owners and pet parents. The former need to assume responsibility for their pets. Domestic workers come with their own baggage." The trio stressed that a pet is a being with needs, and if one care for them, better not to own one.

Raghavan also urges the Animal Welfare Board and the GBA to intervene. "Around 20–30% of reported dog bites come from pets. Many don't vaccinate their dogs, which leads to rabies," she says.

RSS Sarasanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat during the "100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons" at PES University, Hosakerehalli Ring Road, Bengaluru on Sunday

'We want friendship with all, including China'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"POLICY is never stationary. We want friendship with everyone, but China cannot digest a strong Bharat. While being polite, we must safeguard our sovereignty. China wants to dominate and govern. In the 1950s, they had a vision of 'Greater China', which included neighbouring territories. They have already gobbled up Tibet and are now creating disputes along our borders. But we don't want conflicts with anybody. We want to have the strength that will keep China at bay -- politically and intentionally. We want friendship on equal terms," **Mohan Bhagwat** said.

He said the reservation should continue till equality is achieved. "Discrimination can be removed through affection and cooperation," he stated.

He said what exists today is not caste system, but caste confusion. "Caste influence should be overcome through mutual love and respect. Caste-based politics prevents unity. Division of Hindus along castes makes them vulnerable. We must reform and educate ourselves so politics cannot divide us. Our unity has ensured our survival as a civilisation," he said.

On Congress' repeated attacks on RSS not being a registered organisation, he said it is a legally recognised organisation functioning within constitutional parameters and does not require registration. "Many things are not registered, even Hindu Dharma is not registered," he remarked.

On RSS adopting the Bhagwa Dhwaj instead of the National Flag, he said, "It is not Bhagwa versus Tricolour, but Bhagwa with Tricolour. The Sangh has safeguarded and even sacrificed for the national flag."

He reiterated that the Sangh unites society and does not engage in politics but supports policies beneficial to the nation.

On 'love jihad', he said the focus should be on strengthening samskaras at home. "Do not put every Muslim in the same bracket. Many Muslims disapprove of such acts. But the Muslim community too must educate its members. We neither want to convert anyone nor divide any community, but we must keep our house strong," he said. "Several suggestions from the Sangh-inspired Adhivakta Parishad have been submitted, but they must be acted upon," he said. On how the Sangh plans to reach Generation Z in the age of AI and protect them from wokeism, he said the younger generation has always faced distractions, and the Sangh will befriend and bring them to the shakha, adapting to the needs of the times.

People can leave voice messages to explain issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

People can even leave a voice message explaining their issues and submit forms or photos related to their grievances. This will automatically be directed to the concerned person from the concerned department and district. It not only generates a complainant letter using ChatGPT, but also creates a Grievance ID for each complaint'' sources said.

The complainant will get a message of the concerned authority along with his phone number and address. Grievance redressal is time bound and a complaint should be closed within seven days. "If a junior official fails to resolve an issue, on the eighth day, it will be automatically escalated to his senior officer. Here again, seven days will be given and then finally the head of the department will get the message on the 15th day and it has to be resolved in 21 days,'' sources explained. The system is under trial and is expected to be launched next month.

EXPRESS READ

Six arrested for poaching Indian gaur in Mudigere estate

CHIKKAMAGALURU: Poaching of an Indian Gaur and distributing its meat among a group of poachers in Kalmane Estate, Mudigere taluk, came to light late Friday night. Six arrested accused have been remanded in judicial custody.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,67,96,427/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Seven only)** as on **05-11-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **06-11-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the Bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors **No.1) M/s. Seven Hills Enterprises, No.257, Doddanekundi Village, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560037. No.2) Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.3) Mrs. Tamilarasi, W/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.4) Mr. Kaveen Kumar, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.5) Mr. Surya, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.6) Mr. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, S/o. G. Subramanyam Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085. No.7) M/s. Jalsa, No.25/7, Doddanekundi, K.R. Puruam, Bangalore - 560037. Also at : M/S.Jalsa, No. 25, Next to Grand Mall Outer Ring Road, Marathalli, Bangalore - 560 037. No.8) Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.9) Mr. Lokeshwara Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.10) Ms. Rupa, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore -26. No.11) Ms. Kavitha, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.12) Mr. Dilip Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.13) Mrs. Vijayakumari, W/o. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the RCC Residential Building consist of Ground Floor and 1st Floor Property bearing Gramathana House bearing Site No.6, V.P. Khatha No.78, BBMP Municipal No.14, PID No.96-19-14 situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently coming under the BBMP limits measuring East to West 55 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1,650 square feet and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property of Ramakrishna Reddy, North by : Property No.5, South by : Property of Kotaiah.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,87,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh only)

Schedule - D : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Plot / Site Property bearing Site No.6, Junjar No.473, Property No.374, formed in Sy. Nos. 40/1, 40/2 and 40/3 situated at Chandapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently coming under the Chandapura Gram panchayat limits, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet and Totally measuring 1,200 Square feet and bounded on: East by : Site No. 5, West by : Site No. 7, North by : 25 feet Road, South by : Site No.11.

Reserve Price : Rs.30,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
27-11-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch, No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011. Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772 Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605, 8925964904.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he /she is bidding for himself /herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch, No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.",** on or before **12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772, Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605, 8925964904.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As- is- where- is" , "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15** days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues) TDS,GST if any, due to Government, Government undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 07-11-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION Head Office
No.35FV + 6GF, CMRL Depot, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600107
Ph No. (044) 26426773, E.mail ID : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN: U15137TN1972SGC006157

No.BS10 / 071740 / 2025 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Dt.07.11.2025

Bengal Gram(Whole) E-tender No. BS10/071740/2025 - TNCSC/25-26
Green Gram(Whole) E-tender No. BS10/071740/2025 - TNCSC/25-26

Online electronic e-tender for **Purchase of 628 MT. of Black Bengal Gram (whole) and 336 MT. of Green Gram (whole)** to deliver at all the TNCSC's godown in all Regions for issuing under PTMGR NMP Scheme and ICDS

Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission : 25.11.2025 Upto 11.00 AM

DIPR /6045 / TENDER / 2025 **Managing Director**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SE(E)/Tr(PROJ)UC/EE(O)/AE(C)/2025-26/3950-53 Date: 06.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

(1) Providing barbed wire security fencing for proposed 66/11kV sub-station land at Bannahalli Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **Estimate Amount (Excl. GST)** : Rs.9,20,000.00 **(2)** Providing barbed wire security fencing for proposed 66/11kV sub-station land at Thatanur Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **Estimate Amount (Excl. GST)** : Rs.14,30,000.00

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.11.2025.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (Project) Urban Circle, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009

A 19-year-old labourer from Jharkhand died after a fall at an four-storey under-construction building in Kundapur on Sunday. Jayant (19) was found unconcious on the staircase between the first and second floors. He is suspected to have lost his balance and slipped while coming down from the top floor. He was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed

The dead elephants were retrieved from Harobele backwaters on Sunday

2 wild jumbos drown crossing backwaters in Kanakapura taluk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TWO wild elephants drowned while crossing the backwaters of Harobele reservoir near Hulibele and Kunnur in the Sathanur forest range of Kanakapura taluk in Bengaluru South district.

The deceased elephants were male -- one was around 20 years old, while the other around 15 years old.

The elephants were trying to cross the backwaters to reach the Bannerghatta forest when their legs got entangled in aquatic weeds, preventing them from moving and leading to their drowning, a forest official said. A herd of seven elephants had come from the Bannerghatta forest area to the Tenginakallu forest. On Friday evening, the Elephant Task Force launched an operation to drive them back toward Bannerghatta. "While crossing the Harobele backwaters, five elephants managed to reach the other side, but two got stuck in the water. Our staff began searching for them. However, after two days, local residents noticed the carcasses of the two elephants floating in the water and informed the forest department," the officer said.

Using an earthmover, the carcasses were pulled to the shore on Sunday afternoon and sent for post-mortem examination.

State likely to revise Nali Kali curriculum

Under programme, students taught collectively in single classroom, different groups formed on basis of learning level

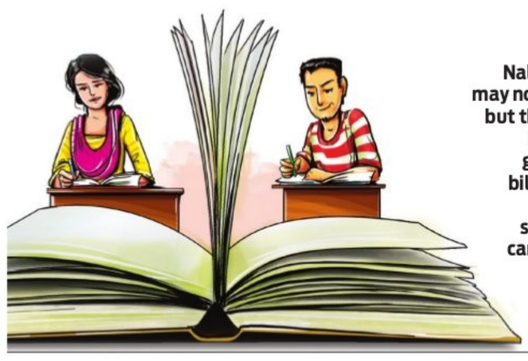
RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

AMID ongoing debate if Class 5 children in government schools are able to read text in Kannada and English and solve basic math problems, the department of school education is pondering whether to halt the Nali Kali programme or revise the curriculum to help children of Class 1-3 prepare better for higher classes.

Nali Kali was introduced to Class 1-3 students in the academic year 2009-10. Under the programme, the students are taught collectively in a single classroom and different groups are formed on the basis of their learning level. Since it is activity-based learning, each student is given a textbook where they complete one activity in each lesson. A progress card is also given to each student to mark their progress while teachers record their remarks.

Nali Kali puts no pressure on students to complete the lessons – students in Class 2 can complete the pending activities of Class 1 textbook and then move on to Class 2 textbook.

Allama Prabhu Bettaduru, a retired principal from Koppal, was among those who opposed the Nali Kali programme in 2009. He said, "It will be good if the education department halts this programme, as it is totally unscientific. It doesn't help students develop reading, writing or reasoning capabilities but leads them to lag behind when they move to Classes 4, 5 and 6. They remain unable to read and write, and even calculate."



Nali Kali programme may not be halted soon, but the curriculum will be revised. As the government plans bilingual classes for elementary-level students, Nali Kali cannot be taught at the same time

Senior SSK official

"The textbooks only comprise pictures. How will children learn to read and write without knowing basic letters and numbers? Let the syllabus for Classes 1, 2 and 3 be the same across government-run, aided and private schools. Let there be proper lessons, poems and problems in math, along with activities at the end of lessons," Bettaduru said.

Kathyayini Chamaraj, an expert in the education sector, said, "Nali Kali promotes monograde learning among students. It was introduced basically because the younger kid would learn from the older kid in the same class. It was also intended to address the teacher shortage in government schools. The government can retain the activity-based learning, but must introduce letters and numbers to children in separate classes. Separate teachers must be appointed for students of Classes 1, 2 and 3. The students will suffer if the government cancels the programme solving teacher shortage."

When *TNIE* asked a senior SSK official if Nali Kali would be halted from the next academic year, she said, "We provide textbooks for the Nali Kali programme. It may not be halted soon, but the curriculum will be revised. As the government plans bilingual classes for elementary-level students, Nali Kali cannot be taught at the same time."

Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "A meeting will be held with teachers, SDMC members and other stakeholders before the mega parent-teacher meeting to decide whether the decade-old programme has to be halted or revised."

Samagra Shikshana to expand free vocational training to 600 more schools

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

SAMAGRA Shikshana Karnataka (SSK) and NGO Lend a Hand, which have together been conducting free vocational training for students from Class 9 to 12 in 384 at government schools across Karnataka, are likely to expand the programme to 600 more schools in the next academic year. The programme is aimed at helping students develop job-oriented skills while at school and college levels.

The National Survey 2024 revealed that the enrolment rate for vocational training in India stood at a meagre 4.4% for the age group of 15–29 years. This is much lower when compared to the workforce in countries like Germany, where the rate hovers around 75%.

An SSK official said, "We are collaborating with an NGO that will go to schools and train students. There are separate vocational courses based on the job roles, approved by the National Skill Qualification Committee. At present, the training is conducted in state schools for six sectors – Apparel Made-ups & Home Furnishing, Automotive, Beauty and Wellness, Electronics & Hardware, Information Technology-Enabled Services (IT/ITeS) and Retail."

Every week, the students are offered five to six hours of classes which comprise 80% practical and 20% theory sessions. At the end of the year, exams are conducted along with other subjects, and marks are assigned. More than 10,000 children have undergone this vocational training so far.

The SSK official said, "These marks appear in the marks card. Candidates are issued a joint certificate issued by the school board and the Sector Skill Council. After finishing Class 12, they can enter the workforce by taking advanced training in specialised institutes. This is an opportunity for them to explore their interests and learn basic skills."

After PUC 2 or class 12, if students want to pursue a diploma or advanced training courses in the skills they have already acquired, the teachers and the NGO will connect them with advanced educational institutions.

SHRC wants Kodagu DC to prevent river pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

THE State Human Rights Commission has sought a comprehensive report from the Kodagu deputy commissioner detailing the initiatives undertaken to mitigate pollution in Cauvery and Lakshmana Theertha rivers. This directive follows a complaint lodged with the commission by members of the Save Cauvery River organisation.

The Save Cauvery organization stressed that untreated waste and sewage effluent from various towns and villages in the district were being discharged into the river, resulting in massive contamination. This complaint was later forwarded to the additional chief secretary overseeing the forest department, who instructed an inquiry and requested a detailed report.

At the same time, the Central Pollution Control Board conducted an inspection and collected water samples from ten distinct locations along the River Cauvery.

Laboratory analyses of these samples confirmed the presence of pollutants, including sewage and untreated waste, particularly from the regions of Bhagamandala, Napoklu, Murnad, Kondangeri, Siddapura and Kudige.

The DC has been urged to implement stringent measures to prevent the inflow of waste and sewage into the rivers. The commission also sought a compliance report from the district administration by April 27, 2026.

K'TAKA SOJOURN

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan being welcomed by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy at HAL Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday. Later, Radhakrishnan left for Mysuru, Mandya and Shravanabelagola to attend various events | EXPRESS

ED attaches properties worth ₹21cr in Belekeri ore export case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru zonal office, provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 21 crore in the case of illegal iron ore export involving Satish Sail and others through Shree Mallikarjun Shipping Pvt Ltd. (SMSPL), Goa. The properties were attached on November 6, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the ED stated in a press release on Saturday.

As per the LEA chargesheet, forest department officials had visited Belekeri Port on March 15, 2010, and found a large quantity of iron ore within the port area. During the inquiry, they found that certain iron ore stocks had no valid permits and passes issued by the Department of Mines & Geology and forest department. They had conducted a mahazar, and seized around 5lakh tonnes of iron ore fines.

Earlier, ED had conducted a search under Section 17 of the PMLA, in Karnataka, Goa, Delhi and Mumbai, covering 15 premises, and arrested Satish Krishna Sail. It also seized cash and gold worth around Rs 8crore from Sail. Later, he was granted interim medical bail which was cancelled by the Special Court on November 7. Sail, MD of SMSPL, had claimed to have purchased seized iron ore fines at Belekeri Port, weighing approximately 1.54631 lakh tonnes, from various suppliers involved in iron ore trade.

Subsequently, Sail, in collusion with a port conservator, had exported illegally procured seized iron ore to China through vessels like MV Columbia and MV Mandarin Harvest, through layering by opening one more company in Hongkong.

The attached property includes 12,500 sqm of open land in Chicalim village, Mormugao, 16,850 sqm of agricultural property known as 'Pedro Galle Cotta', Mormugao taluk, South Goa, and commercial premises on the first, second, third, fourth and fifth floors of Our Lady of Merces Building, opposite Kadamba Bus Stand, Vasco Da Gama, Goa, with a present market value of approximately Rs 64crore.

Dr G to discuss security lapses at jail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I will not tolerate this nonsense. Enough is enough. Such things should not happen. Sometimes they say there is a shortage of staff, but that is not an excuse. You should do your work properly. If you use that excuse to allow mobile phones and TVs inside, it can no longer be called a jail," Parameshwara said.

"I will call a meeting of officers to discuss security lapses. We have already provided for CCTV cameras and jammers, which have been installed in some jails. If the report after the inquiry is not satisfactory, we will form a committee comprising different officers to study the lapses and take necessary measures. It doesn't matter if videos are old or new. Such incidents should not happen again," he added.

Video grab of an inmate having outside food and liquor bottles at Bengaluru prison

In videos that went viral on Saturday, terror suspect Zuhab Hameed Shakeel, serial rapist and killer Umesh Reddy and actor Tarun Konnaraju, accused in a gold smuggling case, are seen using mobile phones and watching TV inside the prison. The prison department has initiated an internal probe.

EXPRESS READ

Couple get entangled in kite string, injured

BELAGAVI: A young couple was seriously injured when they got entangled on a kite string (manja) while travelling on a two-wheeler on the Khari Corner–Shirguppi Road highway near Nipani of Belagavi district on Saturday. The injured have been identified as Prithviraj Sagar Mangle (22) and Sakshi Sagar Mangle (23). They were immediately rushed to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital for first aid and later shifted to CPR Hospital as their condition was critical. Both are currently undergoing treatment. **ENS**

KSRTC wins nat'l award for inclusive transport initiative

BENGALURU: THE Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Sunday won the Award of Excellence in Urban Transport-2025 from the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, for implementing the best urban transport project of the year. The award recognises KSRTC's Dhwani Spandana initiative, a first-of-its-kind system that enables visually impaired passengers to independently identify and board buses. KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha received the award from Union Minister Manohar Lal and Minister of State Tokhan Sahu. The onboard bus identification and navigation system — developed by the Raised Lines Foundation at IIT Delhi, with GIZ as knowledge partner — has been deployed in 200 Mysuru city buses. The system provides assistive audio signals to help users locate buses and entry points. Over 400 visually impaired passengers have already been trained to use the technology. **ENS**

C-DAC, NIOT to develop surface vehicles to study oceans, collect coastal data

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), in collaboration with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Chennai, is in the early stages of developing autonomous, remotely operated surface vehicles for nearshore applications and research.

The MoU signed recently between the two agencies is in keeping with the Government of India's 'Vision of New India by 2030' announced in February 2019, highlighting the Blue Economy as one of the 10 core dimensions of growth.

Speaking exclusively to *TNIE*, NIOT Director Prof Balaji Ramakrishnan said the collaboration between CDAC and NIOT would for the first time bring multiple systems that can effectively be used for underwater and open-sea applications.

"Coastal data is essential for research, engineering and scientific applications. Mapping seabed contours is one of the critical parameters to understand ocean dynamics, coastal flooding and inundation studies. India has more than a 11,000-km long coastline, is surrounded by oceans on three sides and around 30 per cent of the country's population lives in coastal areas. We need high-resolution seabed contours, especially near the shore, to study flooding and inundation mapping. We have conventional boats for the purpose of research and mapping but the process is time and resource consuming," said the ocean scientist.

The initial effort is to develop autonomous surface vehicles -- small automated boats that can be remotely operated, like drones on water to gather high-resolution data in nearshore and estuarine environments efficiently. Oceans, besides being a storehouse of food, energy, minerals and medicines, also modulate weather and climate, and underpin life on Earth.

Meanwhile, in another significant move, the NIOT and CDAC are jointly developing sub-systems for ocean exploration to accelerate self-reliance and prevent their import. These include "development of customized fibre-optic multiplexer and demultiplexer for handling ethernet data and HD video with high-resolution and high bandwidth between the ship and deep-ocean submersibles. This helps to significantly reduce the size of the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) umbilical (cable that connects an underwater robot to a surface control station, providing power, data and communication) and number of penetrator passes in human submersible human cabins. This indigenous development shall relieve us from external dependence and import of technology," said Ramakrishnan. Other areas of joint cooperation between the two agencies include developing industrial-grade customised AI-enabled embedded boards as an autonomous mission computer with data extraction and decoding software.

The collaboration between CDAC and NIOT would for the first time bring multiple systems that can effectively be used for underwater and open-sea applications — Prof Balaji Ramakrishnan, NIOT Director

"This is used for meeting the Guidance and Navigation Control (GNC) including imaging intelligence requirements in ongoing Homing & Docking autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), Deepwater AUV and Swarm AUV projects. The development uses India's indigenous Vega processor and helps to upgrade the processing capabilities with evolving technologies, thereby creating self-reliance. We are also jointly developing customized Data Acquisition and Control (DAC) boards with embedded real-time operating systems (RTOS) for use in our underwater vehicles and systems. The development uses India's indigenous Vega processor and helps to upgrade the processing capabilities with evolving technologies, thereby creating self-reliance. The three subsystems are developed by CDAC with specifications from NIOT for applications in ocean technologies," added the NIOT chief.

The Additional district judge-cum-special judge (POCSO), Kendrapara in Odisha on Saturday sentenced a 31-year-old man to 20 years' imprisonment for kidnapping and raping a 16-year-old college girl two years back

India's first offshore wind project faces green hurdles at Dhanushkodi

Flamingo sanctuary, marine habitats raise concerns over proposed ₹364cr project

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

THE National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) proposed 50-MW demonstration wind farm off Dhanushkodi, which is also India's first offshore wind project, worth Rs 364.6 crore as per DPR, is facing massive environmental and regulatory scrutiny.

Conceived under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) ASPIRE programme, it aims to serve as a research and testing platform for offshore wind technologies in Indian marine conditions.

The project with a levelised cost of electricity (cost to generate one kilowatt-hour (1 unit)) of Rs 7.7-8.04 per kWh, is expected to achieve a 48% capacity utilisation factor (CUF), much higher than onshore installations.

The site is a declared wetland and falls under multiple Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) categories, requiring clearance from the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA). It also lies close to the newly declared Greater Flamingo Sanctuary.

While declaring the sanctuary, the Tamil Nadu government said Dhanushkodi was vital for migratory and resident birds along the central Asian flyway, serving as feeding and resting grounds for Herons, Egrets, Sandpipers, Terns, Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Kentish and Hanuman Plovers, and Waders. Nearly 128 bird species have been recorded here. During the 2023-24 Wetland Bird Census, 10,761 wetland birds were counted in the area.

S Balachandran, former deputy director of the Bombay Natural History Society, said Dhanushkodi hosts "one of the critical and unique habitats in India." Its mudflats are prime areas for waders, he added. "Impact of windmills on birdlife is well-documented. The project should not be allowed to materialise."

X Nallathambi, a fisherman from Thangachimadam and DCZMA member, said, "The proposed jetty site is a fish breeding ground. Marine habitats and our livelihoods will be affected."

SP Rayappan of the District Boat Fishermen Welfare Association said the project could impact turtle nesting grounds and migratory bird routes, especially flamingos and milkfish breeding areas. District Forest Office officials backed these concerns, noting flamingos visit Dhanushkodi between December and March and that the area is a declared wetland.

An NIWE official said, "Noise levels from the turbines will remain below 50 decibels beyond 500 metres less than typical vehicle noise. Bird flight diverters will be installed, and bubble curtains will be used during pile-driving to reduce underwater noise."

NIWE said all recommendations from the wildlife warden would be incorporated in a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before CRZ clearance. "Wind farms near sanctuaries are disastrous. Studies from Gujarat and Karnataka show turbine collisions and electric cable risks that threaten bird populations," In a letter to TNCZMA, Chennai-based environmentalist K Saravanan said.

TROUBLE ON HIGHWAY

Luxury pvt buses halt services to TN, K'taka over 'unlawful' tax

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

THOUSANDS of commuters, including students and software employees, are set to be affected as nearly 600 luxury private buses operating between Kerala and neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka will suspend services from Monday evening.

"We are forced to suspend the operations from 6pm on Monday due to continuous harassment, seizure of vehicles, and imposition of unlawful state-level taxes and heavy fines by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka authorities," said A J Rijas, state president, Kerala State Committee, Luxury Bus Owners Association (LBOA).

According to the association, an estimated 4,000 people travel daily in these luxury buses to major hubs like Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Madurai. The busy Kochi-Bengaluru sector alone sees about 80 bus services each day.

"I used to travel to my home and back at least thrice in a month due to the work-from-home facility allotted by my employer. We usually depend on the private buses since the travel plans are often chartered at the last minute. Many like us will be hit hard by the sudden suspension of services," said Sangeeth S, a software employee working in Bengaluru and hailing from Kochi.

The core of the dispute centres on the All India Tourist Permit (AITP) framework. Kerala bus operators argue that their AITP, issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Act, exempts them from paying any additional state taxes, provided the national permit fee is paid. Despite this, they claim Kerala-registered tourist vehicles are being stopped, heavily fined, and detained in the neighbouring states, actions they deem a clear violation of the AITP Rules.

"For over a year, Tamil Nadu has been collecting tax arbitrarily, causing repeated financial stress and harassment. The situation has become untenable and unsafe due to the threat of financial loss and vehicle seizure, forcing the association to suspend services as a compelled measure, not a voluntary protest," said Rijas.

The association appealed to the Kerala transport minister, the transport commissioner, and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to immediately intervene and resolve the matter, urging for a uniform implementation of the AITP framework across all southern states.

Revanth predicts Cong rule in TG until 2034

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

INVOKING Telangana's political history, Chief Minister **A Revanth Reddy** on Sunday predicted a decade-long reign for the Congress, arguing that the state, in contemporary times, has consistently given two consecutive terms to its ruling parties.

Speaking at the 'Meet the Press' programme organised by the Press Club in Hyderabad, he said this pattern would see the Congress in power until June 2034, a projection meant to counter BRS working president KT Rama Rao's claim that his party would return to power within 500 days.

"There are over a thousand days left in this five-year term. I don't know how Rama Rao calculates the days. But mark my words — eight more years from today, that is, November 9. There is a possibility of Jamili elections (simultaneous elections) being held in June 2029 for a five-year term, which will last until June 2034," the chief minister said, adding that his goal was to implement development plans covering a hundred years within the next 10 In a wide-ranging and fiery interaction with journalists, Revanth mixed political attacks with developmental promises and sharp jibes at his rivals — former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), former minister KT Rama Rao and Union minister G Kishan Reddy.

Revanth began by recalling the Congress' pivotal role in the formation of Telangana, crediting former AICC president Sonia Gandhi for "keeping her word" despite political costs.

IMD issues heavy rain alert in Kerala, TN

ENS @ CHENNAI/ KOLLAM

HEAVY rain is expected in parts of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday and Thursday, according to the India Meteorological Department.

On Wednesday, heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Theni, Virudhunagar, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur districts, according to the weather bulletin said on Sunday. In Chennai, the sky condition is expected to be partly cloudy with the chance of light to moderate rain in some areas on Monday.

Meanwhile, IMD has forecast heavy rain accompanied by lightning, thunder, and strong winds at isolated places in the Kollam district till Monday.

"Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are very likely to occur in the district. Heavy rainfall (7 cm to 11 cm) is also very likely at one or two places," the IMD alert read.

Stalin firm on opposing SIR, urges citizens to protect voting rights

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin speaks during a meeting with district secretaries | PTI

CHIEF Minister and DMK president M K Stalin on Sunday reaffirmed his firm opposition to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, urging voters, including DMK cadres, to stay alert and ensure their names are not deleted.

"The danger of our voting rights being taken away is now at our doorstep! However, let us all unite, remain vigilant, and act together to ensure that democracy is not strangled in Tamil Nadu. Let us protect our voting rights and not get trapped in the web of the SIR conspiracy," Stalin said in a video message explaining the DMK's stand against the SIR.

He said that despite consistent opposition from the DMK and its allies, the Election Commission of India (ECI) had proceeded with the SIR exercise. "Most people are unaware of what the SIR entails. There is considerable confusion over the details sought in the enumeration form," he said.

Stalin noted that the final decision on accepting the filled-in enumeration forms rests with the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). "But we cannot be certain that all EROs will make decisions uniformly," he cautioned.

Responding to the argument that the DMK need not oppose the SIR since it is carried out by state government staff, Stalin said, "From the very moment an official is assigned to the ECI's duty, he or she functions under the commission's control, not under the state government. Hence, it is wrong to mislead the public with false information."

To assist the public, Stalin announced that the DMK had set up a help centre — not merely for party cadres, but for all citizens. "Hence, not only party functionaries but all citizens affected by the SIR can contact the helpline number 08065420020 to clarify their doubts and seek guidance. The DMK stands as your ally in protecting the voting rights of the people of Tamil Nadu," he said.

TN govt limits ration card name removal to twice a year

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

NEARLY a year after making marriage registration certificates mandatory for removing names of living individuals from family ration cards, the Tamil Nadu civil supplies department has further tightened regulations by limiting the scope for new ration card applications. Under the revised rules, which came into effect on November 6 (Thursday), requests for name removal from family ration cards can now be submitted only twice a year — between January and June, and again from July to December. This means that if an online name removal request is rejected in January, the applicant will have to wait till July to reapply.

While the civil supplies department has attributed its latest move to the growing number of repeat applications submitted without the required documents, *TNIE* has reliably learned that, ahead of the general elections scheduled for May next year, the government is planning to provide substantial cash assistance to each ration cardholder during the Pongal festival. The recent restrictions on issuance of new ration cards have been introduced to help finalise the list of eligible beneficiaries. Civil supplies officials, however, have remained tight-lipped on the matter.

Sorcery case: Odisha to make witch-hunting law stricter

ENS @ Bhubaneswar

Amid a rise in sorcery-related violence and Odisha reporting at least 50 such killings every year, the state government has decided to comprehensively overhaul its decade-old witch-hunting law.

Sources said the Law department has begun the process to amend the Odisha Prevention of Witch-hunting (OPW) Act, 2013, following recommendations of the State Law Commission, which was tasked to review the existing legislation and plug gaps that have allowed perpetrators to evade punishment and victims to suffer without adequate legal support.

According to reports, 606 people killed in sorcery-related incidents in the last 11 years with 12 districts under the grip of the menace. Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nabarangpur and Kandhamal districts are the worst-hit with as high as 67 per cent of murders triggered by witchcraft suspicion. In the last five years, as many as 408 cases were registered and 388 people arrested in connection with such incidents. The draft amendment (accessed by *TNIE*) suggests making punishment more stringent, including invoking provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 for cases leading to death, imprisonment of seven years to life for abetment of suicide through witch-branding, and a minimum of five to 10 years imprisonment with fines up to Rs 5 lakh for public humiliation such as stripping and parading victims naked.

DIVINE GESTURE

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani visits Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple in Kerala on Sunday. He also handed over a cheque for Rs 15 crore as the first instalment of his donation towards the construction of a multi-speciality hospital | EXPRESS

Gana Geetham row: Edu dept to probe schoolkids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram/Kochi

THE Gana Geetham controversy took a new turn on Sunday with Minister V Sivankutty saying that the education department will launch an inquiry into schoolchildren singing the RSS song during the inaugural journey of the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat on Saturday.

Pointing out that the state government can take down the NOC for a school's functioning if it does not meet stated conditions, irrespective of the board of education, the education minister said a report has been sought from the director of education on the issue.

While the matter has taken a political turn, the school authorities said they wish to stay clear of the row but will move legally if required. Stressing that using children to politicise government programmes for the sake of the communal ideals of a particular group is a violation of constitutional values, Sivankutty also said that weeks of practice may have been done for the purpose. The report will be prepared and submitted within two days, said Director of General Education N S K Umesh.

"We will inquire into the issue, only after which the next decision will be taken," he told *TNIE*. Meanwhile, the school maintained that the song selection was a spontaneous choice by the students when some media persons asked them to sing a song.

"We don't wish to politicise this at all. If the government moves forward with the probe, we will be forced to go legal. We don't wish to get into the political war otherwise," said K P Dinto, the principal of Saraswathi Vidyaniketan Public School, Kochi.

LOTTERY & CHARITY

Khammam man chooses mom's b'day number, hits ₹240cr jackpot in UAE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Khammam

BOLLA Anil Kumar, a 29-year-old resident of Bheemavaram village in Vemsoor mandal of Khammam district, has hit the jackpot by winning Rs 240 crore UAE (United Arab Emirates) lottery recently. After completing his education in Hyderabad, Anil moved to Abu Dhabi, where he has been working as an IT professional for over a year and half.

Recently, he purchased 12 tickets, one of which bearing the date of his mother Bhulakshmi's birthday, turned out to be the winning number, fetching him the Dh100 million (Rs 240 crore) jackpot.

The joy of Anil Kumar's parents, Madhava Rao and Bhulakshmi, knew no bounds after they came to know that their son had won the lottery. Speaking to *TNIE* from their home in Bhimavaram, they said, "We have no words to express our happiness." Madhava Rao, 60, is a small farmer who owns five acres of land. He has another son, Subramanyam, who is elder to Anil.

Speaking to Khaleej Times in Abu Dhabi, Anil Kumar said that he intends to keep working and also plans to continue calling the UAE home for at least the next decade.

The top priority for Anilkumar is to move his family — his parents and brother — to the UAE so they can live together. "The UAE is a very safe and secure country, and I'm happy to build my life here," he told the newspaper. "I want my parents and brother to experience the life I have here and be close to me. I also want to buy a home, maybe in Yas Island or Saadiyat Island." Anil Kumar's quiet, predictable life - working during the day, spending time with friends, and staying connected with family back home -- changed when, on October 18, he received an unexpected call from the UAE Lottery team while sitting on his sofa at home. "I was shocked and couldn't believe it at first. I had some water, tried to calm down, and then celebrated quietly. It was an unforgettable moment."

Bolla Anil Kumar with his family

Anil Kumar started playing the UAE Lottery about a year ago, occasionally trying his luck with scratch cards and Lucky Day draws. "I skipped a couple of months, but I kept believing," he recalled. "For the October 18 draw, I bought 12 tickets, and one of them changed my life."

While many might dream of instant luxury, Anil Kumar is approaching his new fortune with restraint and careful planning.

Despite his new multimillionaire status, Anil Kumar said he intends to stay grounded and give back. "I plan to donate part of the money to charity," he told Khaleej Times.

EDITORIAL

I propose the following definition of the nation: it is an imagined political community — Benedict Anderson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

SPIRITED PUSHBACK BY HASINA AGAINST PARTY DISENFRANCHISEMENT

DEPOSED Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came out with guns blazing against her successor Muhammad Yunus's cancel culture in an exclusive online interview with this newspaper. Fifteen months after she was forced into exile in India following a domestic uprising, during which Hasina chose to stay mum on the alleged foreign hand, she spoke her mind on the interim government led by Yunus banning her Awami League from contesting the general election that is barely three months away. Evolving some mechanism to bar individuals under investigation for their alleged crimes could be understood. However, banning an entire mainstream party goes against the grain of fundamental rights of the electorate. Hasina pushed back against the charges of rigging elections when she was in power, conceding that some of the past elections were not fully participatory because major political parties chose to boycott them. That cycle of non-participation must now be broken, she added, making her case for lifting the ban on the Awami League to make the February election inclusive.

She addressed difficult questions head on while disputing the UN's estimate of 1,400 deaths during the July 2024 uprising. While Hasina took what she called 'leadership responsibility' for the deaths, she said all actions were taken in good faith to minimise the loss of life and restore law and order. As for the toll, she claimed it included members of the security forces and of Awami League members, too, but that segregation has not been made yet by the interim government. Her combative response was read as remorseless by sections of the commentariat, but she could not be expected to self-implicate when facing trial by a tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity during her watch as PM. Hasina also brushed aside charges of syphoning out $234 billion from Bangladesh as laughable, and indulged in whataboutory, accusing Yunus of accumulating immense wealth.

In the end, Hasina came through as a leader trying to shore up the morale of her disenfranchised party. With the students who led the uprising pulling out all stops to get their nascent Jatiya Nagorik Party to capture power, the forthcoming battle of the ballot could be anything but peaceful. That is the challenge that stares at Yunus, who is said to aspire to ascend as president. How the dice rolls in February, only time can tell.

A BYPOLL TO REDEFINE SHAPE OF T'GANA POLITICS

THE Jubilee Hills byelection in Hyderabad has turned into a litmus test for all the political parties in Telangana—the ruling Congress, the main opposition BRS, and the ambitious BJP. The outcome of the November 11 vote will do more than deciding one urban seat—it could reset the power equations that shape the state's political landscape.

The contest pits the Congress bid to prove its staying power against the BRS's attempt at resurrection and the BJP's hunger for urban entrenchment. For the Congress, the stakes could not be higher. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made it a prestige issue. A win would burnish his image and silence critics who claim his administration is wobbling under factional pulls. A loss, however, would deepen the cracks, leaving him gasping for breath amid cabinet indiscipline and a restless cadre. The Congress machinery is in overdrive—rolling out welfare testimonials, aggressive booth management, and door-to-door persuasion. A victory would give the party swagger. It would show that Hyderabad's urban, aspirational voters reward the Congress, too, and blow the myth of BRS invincibility in the capital. After all, the Congress has not made a dent in Hyderabad in a decade.

For the BRS, the bypoll is a battle for revival. Having lost ground in 2023 and then all 17 Lok Sabha seats a few months later, it is desperate for a comeback. By fielding the late MLA Maganti Gopinath's widow, it is banking on sympathy and legacy. A victory would signal that the pink flag still flies high in the city. The BJP, meanwhile, is likely to play the spoiler. It is pitching itself as the Hindu voice of the urban middle class, hoping to slice into both Congress and BRS votes. A strong showing would underline its expanding footprint and could nudge the BRS toward tactical cooperation in future contests. For the saffron party, Jubilee Hills is less about today's seat and more about tomorrow's momentum.

But urban byelections have a mind of their own. Turnout swings, candidate sympathy, and micro-level booth work often upend grand strategies. If the Congress wins, Revanth Reddy earns stripes. A BRS triumph would revive the pink camp's confidence. A strong BJP performance could rewrite the script altogether. When the dust settles, the result will echo far beyond Hyderabad's skyline—shaping alliances, ambitions, and agendas in Telangana's next big political battle.

QUICK TAKE

METAL WORKFORCE

AMAZON'S millionth robot is out. Robots already crowd DHL's warehouses. As technology evolves toward humanoids, India faces a serious labour challenge at the bottom of the pyramid. Machines are now in our homes—the roombas already do what domestic help once did. Dishwashers and washing machines aren't robots, but they too reduce manual work. In theory, automation pushes workers toward higher-value jobs. However, the transition is not easy in India, with its vast, unskilled, and unorganised workforce. The country must invest in large-scale skill transformation, accessible training pathways, and social security nets to support the shift. When humanoid swarms arrive, they will start at the bottom—displacing the weakest labour first.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's poem should not be seen through narrow parochial or religious eyes. It harkens to a higher ideal of nationhood that's relevant even today

VANDE MATARAM: A MANTRA TO STIR THE NATION'S SOUL

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi must be congratulated for making the 150th anniversary of '*Vande mataram*', the song that stirred the soul of a fallen nation, into a State celebration. For what is a State—any State—which has no statement to make? Respect, even reverence, for one's motherland is the least, some would even say the utmost, Indian statement.

For Ma Bharati is not just a country, a political union, a nation, or even a state of mind. She is nothing short of a force of consciousness. In invoking her, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, unified and activated the dormant soul of a defeated people, so enwrapped in darkness that it needed nothing less than a new mantra, almost magical in its incantatory power, to agitate it into awakening.

If I sound so enthusiastic, even laudatory to the point of being reverential, it is because I have just re-read and inwardly recited Bankim's poem, India's national song. Yes, it was so affirmed by India's Constituent Assembly in 1950, the same body that gave us our Constitution. Let me confess that I have never sung or listened to '*Vande mataram*' without being deeply moved, even to tears. And today is no exception.

But here's a slight problem. The full song, for various political and historical reasons, is not easily available, especially in Devanagari. I actually had to source it from sanskritdocuments.org. This leads me to offer an aside to the powers that be. In our efforts to promote our many national languages, in addition to the two official ones, namely Hindi and English, we must try to make important texts available not only in translation, but in transliteration. That is, from Punjab to Kerala, Gujarat to Assam, original texts should be in both Devanagari and Roman transliteration so that we can try to read them in original.

When it comes to '*Vande mataram*', most educated Indians will find it easy to grasp, with its mixture of Sanskrit and Bangla heavily weighted in favour of the former, rendering it truly a national text in much of the country. Which leads me to some slightly more chauvinistic Bengali friends, mostly Hindus. They are quick to point out that Bankim spoke of seven crore voices (*saptakoti kantha*), slightly in excess of the population of Bengal Presidency in his time. The teeming masses of undivided India, even in the late 19th century, numbered some 285 million souls. Ergo, they argue, *Bande* (with a b), not *Vande* (with a v) *mataram*, was for Bengalis, not Indians.

Thank you, but why be so literal, I ask. Why can't Bengal stand for India? After all, most important ideas in the colonial period, including Hindutva, coined before V D Savarkar by Chandranath Basu, came from Bengal. What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow, they used to say. Why shouldn't it be the other way round today—what India thinks today, Bengal thinks tomorrow? If we cry for national unity, even Hindu unity, why should Hindu Bengalis carp and cavil so much?

My apologies if I offend anyone. Given how much a Bongophile I am, my Kolkata friends long ago, albeit grudgingly, called me an 'honorary Bengali'. I found that one of the most honourable, in addition to flattering, compliments I have received.

From the regional to the 'secularist' national objection. I think it was K D Sethna, better known as Amal Kiran in Aurobindonian circles, who answered it best and most politely: "That *Vande mataram* should ever have been challenged on the ground that it was too Hindu and not secular enough for a country where there were millions of Muslims, is a sad symptom of national decadence. Perhaps a still sadder one is the lukewarm apologia put up for it at times—namely, that the goddess invoked should not worry anybody since nobody now believes in the reality of such a being and she can be taken as a harmless poetic metaphor for the motherland. Heaven save us from this kind of secularism!"

It was indeed Sri Aurobindo who not only hailed Bankim as a '*rishi*' but *Vande mataram* as a mantra: "Among the rishis of the later age we have at last realised that we must include the name of the man who gave us the reviving mantra which is creating a new India, the mantra *Bande mataram*." In an article reproduced in *The Standard Bearer* in 1920, Sri Aurobindo even went so far as to say, "A greater mantra than *Bande mataram* has to come."

That is because Bankim hails Mother India as a combination of Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati—the three powers we need at the practical and psychic levels—to turn earthly existence into a successful and cooperative enterprise. Understood in this light, there is nothing parochial, narrowly religious, or even rigidly nationalistic about *Vande mataram*.

Rather, especially when understood as a mantra, it signifies the energising feminine or active force in any transformative endeavour, whether physical, vital, intellectual, psychic, or spiritual. Writing on *Bande mataram*, Sri Aurobindo explained that a nation, like an individual, has three bodies—the physical (*annamaya kosha*), the vital energy of its citizens (*pranamaya kosha*), and, "Within the gross body is a subtler body, the thoughts, the literature, the philosophy, the mental and emotional activities, the sum of hopes, pleasures, aspirations, fulfilments, the civilisation and culture, which make up the *sukshma sharir* of the nation.... but within them all is the source of her life, immortal and unchanging, of which every nation is merely one manifestation, the universal Narayan, One in the many of whom we are all the children."

The symbolism is Hindu, but the meaning transcends all boundaries. So it should be with *Vande mataram*. Bankim's mantra still holds good, unfolding its meaning gradually, like a time-release capsule. In it, not just a nation regains its long-lost Mother, but the Mother herself finds her long-lost children.

That is why, apart from any official reason, let us really try to read, recite, and understand this mantra again.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

SINGING OUR SOULS AWAKE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

A new trend is reportedly rocking young India called 'bhajan clubbing', in which Gen Z gathers in various spaces for sessions of singing and dancing to remixed devotional songs. Chai and buttermilk are to hand, not the liquor served in Western-style pubs and clubs. There are diyas, candles, incense sticks, and flowers to create a pleasant atmosphere. The young dress up, or don't, depending on the occasion, clap along, and sing to guitars and drums. The music is modern, but the words are old, including mahamantras like '*Hare Rama, Hare Rama*'.

If we look, we'll see that this movement was growing organically, with important contributions to the 'vibe' from singers like Shankar Mahadevan, Kailash Kher, Jubin Nautiyal, and a score more. The happy-clappy satsang and naamkirtan culture already in place was made more modern. The electric atmosphere during festivals like Navratri, Mahashivratri, and Janmashtami at temples, garba grounds, and in popular ashrams also fostered this development. Purists may cavil, but doesn't it sound perfectly natural for a singing, dancing nation? The young have found their own, blessedly free expression of belief, blending fun and faith.

I welcome this trend with all my heart and wish it had happened in my youth. It would have been grounding, energising, and expressive of the Ananda or joy, which is the driving principle of this upbeat faith. I would not have been conditioned to be a 'coconut'—brown outside and white inside. I mourn that I belong to the cheated urban generation that was denied Sanskrit. I was taught French instead. No learning is wasted, true, but our access to and understanding of our heritage should not have been removed either. I am very thankful that the two terrible fault lines in our culture—caste and gender—are being repaired. I regret that along the way, they 'threw the baby out with the bathwater'.

This brings back a question I was pointedly asked when I began writing about religion over twenty-five years ago, thanks to the newspaper editors who took a wild chance on me. Prior to that, growing up had been complicated. My mother, the believer, was long dead, my father was basically irreligious, and I was swamped by proud atheists. They were decent people, bright and well-spoken, whose one blind spot was faith. My friends included the 'Khan Market gang' and 'Lutyens gang' that ridiculed Indian religion. I was taken aback by the underlying self-hate when people breezily said things like, "Ram was a wimp". My authentic self—a low-maintenance Hindu, maybe, but a Hindu nevertheless—was hidden from them. My faith became "the love that dare not speak its name".

But my cover was blown when I began writing about religion. I couldn't lie there, though I openly shared my doubts, queries, and critiques, drawing flak from traditionalists. All hell broke loose in my little world when I tried to explain the Hindu's visceral need for temples, headlined 'A House for Mr Vishwas'. 'Left-lib' friends told me sternly, "Renuka, you've become embarrassing," and scornfully demanded, "What's a column on religion doing in a newspaper?"

X.COM

> Looking at upbeat faith trends like 'bhajan clubbing', I mourn that I belong to the cheated urban generation that was denied Sanskrit. Swamped by proud atheists, my low-maintenance faith became "the love that dare not speak its name" with time

Wait, my peer group found me ridiculous, and was pressuring me to stop? It was a stark moment of choice. I chose God. A response came to me. "I think a newspaper could be compared to a farm," I said slowly. "The news pages bear staple crops like wheat and rice. The sports and feature pages grow spice and vegetable crops. The business pages are the *mandi*, the crop market. The editorial pages are orchards, with the fruit of thought."

"So, what's a faith column?" my friends repeated. Their tone had subtly shifted, as though processing the comparison. An answer lit up in my head. "A faith column is the *kesar bagh*," I said. "The 'saffron garden', as a garden of precious herbs is called. Its space may be smaller than that of the big crops. But if honestly tended, perhaps its scent may be able to enhance the quality of life." There was a long moment of silence, and I looked back steadily, for, in having to explain myself, I found I had clarified my own thoughts. Perhaps it was what we'd call "the Upanishadic reflex"—to respond with a plausible analogy. I wondered if, unrecognised by both parties, this pattern was so culturally entrenched over the millennia that even Macaulay could not fully uproot it. For they accepted the analogy, though they stuck to their disregard for faith.

We continued as friends, with the uncomfortable understanding that I walked a different path. I heard them tell others that I was "not really like that". Once, when I showed up for lunch at the Delhi Gymkhana Club with a tilak on my forehead because I'd stopped by the Yogmaya temple, my smart friends were horrified and icily asked why I'd turned into a sadhvi. By then, I'd grown past explaining and merely raised a 'So, sue me' eyebrow. Then one of them said, "She's not a sadhvi," and the moment passed.

I'd thought about life without the approval of the people I knew. It was fine, I'd realised, with growing excitement, for I was on a valid, if lone, personal journey in dialogue with the public. I had somehow arrived, stumbling, at the golden shore of a vast ocean, a fathomless treasure trove. It's me, the almost-outcast, who loves how Gen Z is making faith its own, combining music, devotion, and community. Sing and dance, dear people. *Hari bol*, with rightful joy.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Bihar diligence

Ref: *Casual versus diligent* (Nov 9). As Bihar votes, the lesson is unambiguous. Marginalised communities are not moved by symbolism; they respond to sustained presence, respect, and political seriousness. In a state where electoral outcomes hinge on micro-shifts and tight margins, diligence matters more than dramatic announcements.
Sanjeev Jha, New Delhi

Tumbling Trump

Ref: *Zohran Mamdani trounces Trumpism* (Nov 9). Trump 1.0 was sober and pragmatism personified; while Trump 2.0 is exemplified by jingoism, xenophobia, arrogant autocratic individualism, and quixotic eccentricities. Ergo, if Donald Trump falls down in his political career, he alone can be responsible for his irresponsibility.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Ghatak's lens

Ref: *Shooting star who lit up screens & lives* (Nov 9). For me, Ritwik Ghatak is a question mark hanging over the present. A reminder that cinema was once a weapon of truth; not a commodity for comfort. Ghatak made us feel responsible. That's why he suffered. And that's why he matters even more today.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Seshan's wit

Ref: *The man who reshaped elections* (Nov 8). An incident I remember reading about the resolute taskmaster was when T N Seshan was invited to the Ayyappa temple in New Delhi, where the organisers requested Seshan to address the guests with 'two words'. He took the microphone and said, "Swamiye saranam". Upon being asked why he did not speak more, he replied politely, "You asked to speak two words only."
Sreenivasan Raman, Bengaluru

Reasoning spirit

Ref: *A fantasy called Chanakya* (Nov 9). The column courageously reminds us that history is not a loyal servant but a restless spirit that refuses to remain chained to myths. When myth is mistaken for memory, history weeps, and reason hides its face.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

House balance

Ref: *Bihar to dominate House* (Nov 9). Parliament is the primary forum where issues must be debated transparently and responsibly. A balanced approach is necessary so that electoral priorities don't overshadow effective governance and participatory decision-making.
Ruby G, Tirupathur

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
Modi Ji, for nearly 20 years, the BJP-JDU government has been in power in Bihar, so you are the one who has implemented Jungle Raj.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
It is not hidden from anyone what misfortune BJP's malice and corruption have brought upon milk plants. BJP is not only anti-farmer but also anti-dairy farmer.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
If Tejashwi Yadav becomes Chief Minister even by mistake, there will be inhuman treatment of Dalits, Mahadalits, backward, and extremely backward communities...

Pak-linked hackers target 'safe' military, govt comps

Malware made with AI used to steal classified data from Linux computers

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Intelligence Agencies have sent a report to the MHA alerting that a major cyber-espionage campaign orchestrated by a Pakistan-linked hacker group known as Transparent Tribe, which is actively targeting government and military computers using an advanced spyware called DeskRAT, sources said on Friday.

According to the report, the group has significantly upgraded its capabilities this year, shifting from public cloud-based delivery systems like Google Drive to dedicated private servers, making its operations harder to trace and block.

The hackers are believed to be exploiting ongoing border tensions in Ladakh, attempting to intercept intelligence related to China's military movements through compromised Indian systems, the sources said.

In the report the agencies have revealed that the cyber attackers are using highly convincing phishing techniques, including fake government notices, ZIP archives and intelligence briefings to trick officials into downloading infected files, the sources said, adding that these malicious emails are often timed with security alerts, protests or border incidents, when officials are more likely to engage with what appear to be urgent updates.

"Once installed, DeskRAT - a remote access tool specifically engineered for BOSS Linux, the operating system widely used in Indian government departments - can stealthily access, monitor, and extract files without raising alarms. The malware operates quietly in the background, enabling attackers to ex-filtrate classified documents, operational plans and login credentials over extended periods without disrupting system activity," a source said.

Describing the latest tool as more advanced, another source said, "The group's latest attacks are faster, stealthier and considerably harder to detect."

The hacker group has been employing artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models (LLMs) to accelerate malware development, the sources said. Cybersecurity specialists have warned that defending against such adaptive threats would require automated detection systems and real-time response capabilities.

The sources said, the MHA has issued directives to heighten vigilance and reinforce cyber hygiene.

INTEL ALERT

- USES ADVANCED SPYWARE CALLED **DESKRAT**
- HACKERS BELIEVED TO BE TRYING TO EXPLOIT ONGOING TENSIONS IN LADAKH
- Pakistan-linked hacker group known as **Transparent Tribe**
- Uses dedicated private servers instead of public cloud-based delivery systems like Google Drive
- Hackers using phishing techniques to trick officials into downloading infected files
- Using AI and large language models to accelerate malware development
- Makes its operations harder to trace, track and block

'He speaks for himself': Cong rejects Tharoor's endorsement of Advani

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday publicly distanced itself from remarks made by Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor, who praised veteran BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani, whom Tharoor said should not be judged solely by "one episode" in his long public career.

In a statement, Pawan Khera, Chairman of the party's Media and Publicity Department, said, "Like always, Dr. Shashi Tharoor speaks for himself, and the Indian National Congress outrightly dissociates itself from his most recent statement. That he continues to do so as a Congress MP and CWC member reflects the essential democratic and liberal spirit unique to the INC."

The party's sharp response followed after Tharoor's observation that it was "unfair" to reduce Advani's decades of public service to 'one episode', referring to the 'Rath Yatra'.

"Reducing Advani's long years of service to one episode, however significant, is also unfair. The totality of Nehruji's career cannot be judged by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone. I believe we should extend the same courtesy to Advaniji," Tharoor said.

On Saturday, Tharoor had wished Advani on X saying, "Wishing the venerable Shri L K Advani a very happy 98th birthday! His unwavering commitment to public service, his modesty and decency, and his role in shaping the trajectory of modern India are indelible."

Tharoor's message, however, drew criticism from senior Supreme Court lawyer Sanjay Hegde, who cited Advani's role in the Rath Yatra and the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

"Sorry, Mr Tharoor, unleashing the 'dragon seeds of hatred' (to quote Khushwant Singh) in this country is NOT public service," Hegde wrote on X. Tharoor's remarks defending Advani came in response to Hegde's post.

The latest controversy comes just days after Tharoor triggered a political storm with an article titled "Indian Politics Are a Family Business."

INSIDER TRACK

Buzz on AICC rejig after Bihar polls

The Bihar election results on November 14 are likely to shape the Congress's national standing and trigger key organisational changes. Activity at the AICC headquarters has picked up pace, with talk of a reshuffle gaining ground. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and K C Venugopal have held a series of closed-door meetings in recent weeks, fuelling speculation. While the party does not expect particularly favourable results in Bihar, a key issue is Karnataka's leadership question, with the party treading cautiously. All eyes are also on Venugopal's organisational post, as he is likely to shift focus towards preparations for the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections. Discussions are said to be underway to explore a larger organisational role for former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, signalling the veteran's possible return to the national stage.

Tej Pratap looking for new shores?

Lalu Prasad's estranged son Tej Pratap Yadav seems to be charting a path his father wouldn't approve of. Fondly called Teju Bhaiya, he has hinted at joining any alliance "truly committed to development and employment", depending on his result from Mahua. Recently spotted chatting warmly with BJP MP Ravi Kishan at Patna airport, Tej Pratap remarked, "Ham dono chandan karte hain aur Bhole Nath ke bhakt hain," sparking rumours. By launching Janshakti Janata Dal and refraining from criticising Nitish Kumar or Narendra Modi, Tej Pratap is clearly distancing himself from his family's traditional rhetoric. These moves have intensified speculation of a potential shift toward the right and caught the attention of NDA leaders, who see him as a possible unexpected ally and a jolt to the Lalu family.

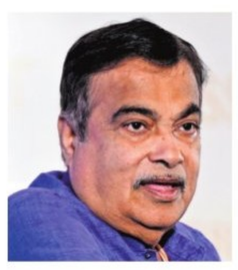
BJP waiting for many changes

There is a buzz around the saffron circles that after the Bihar election results are declared, the BJP central leadership is expected to take major organisational decisions, which would not be uninfluenced by the outcome of the election. Between November 15—the day after the Bihar results are announced—and November 30, the BJP may witness significant changes in its organisational structure. More importantly, one may expect to see the final decision on the election for the national president that has been put on hold for various reason, a senior BJP leader, who camped in Bihar for an extended period, remarked. "If the results comes as per our anticipation, creative decisions can be expected. If we fail to achieve the desired result, some hard corrective steps right from the Bihar unit of the party to the central organisation cannot be ruled out," quipped a source.

Lull before Tharoor's dynastic jibe

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, never far from headlines, is once again at the centre of controversy—this time for his direct attack on the leadership over dynastic politics. The remarks have reignited debate over Tharoor's uneasy equation with the party's official line. In May, he received a stern warning over his comments on the Indo-Pak conflict, which were seen as at odds with the party's position. Insiders say Tharoor stayed quiet in recent months—at least until his reappointment as chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs in September. "He was lying low till they reappointed him," quipped a senior leader, hinting that the timing of his latest remarks was deliberate.

The highway man is a farmer too



Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is often hailed as the highway man of India for transforming the country's road and highway infrastructure. However, he considers himself more of an agriculturalist. During an informal discussion with media persons recently, he revealed lesser known facts about his first passion. While he served them organic daal grown in his farm in Nagpur, he disclosed that he had been conferred multiple honorary DLitt degrees not for his political work but for making significant contributions towards water conservation, organic and natural farming, and agricultural diversification.

Vice Admiral Anil Jaggi appointed commandant of National Def Academy

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE National Defence Academy (NDA), Armed Forces' tri-services training institution, has got a new Commandant. "Vice Admiral Anil Jaggi assumed the appointment of Commandant, National Defence Academy, from Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh," the Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

Admiral Singh, commissioned in July 1990, has been moved to the New Delhi-based Naval Headquarters as the chief of personnel. He is a gunnery and missile specialist.

Vice Admiral Jaggi is an alumnus of Indian Naval Academy and was commissioned into the Navy on January 1, 1993. The Flag Officer is a navigation and direction specialist and in over three decades he has handled various operational, staff, diplomatic and instructional assignments.

"He has commanded the missile vessel INS Veer and the indigenous Shivalik class stealth guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri," MoD said in a release. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and the prestigious Naval War College, Goa. In addition to the career courses, the Admiral also completed the United Nations Observer Course from Swedish Armed Forces International Centre, Sweden.

With Vice Admiral Anil Jaggi at the helm, said MoD, National Defence Academy will continue to uphold its distinguished legacy of preparing and grooming the future leaders of the Indian Armed Forces. "Under his stewardship, the focus will remain steadfast on preserving the strong joint training ethos at this premiere tri-services training institution," the ministry added.

PM, Shah to meet top cops in C'garh for final Maoist blow

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH a special focus on the government's target to completely eliminate Naxal menace in the country, the 60th edition of annual Director General of Police (DGP) and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Conference will be held in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur from November 28 to 30.

As part of the settled practice the event will bring together India's top police brass in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the main focus of the meet this time is going to be finding ways and means to make a final assault on the Naxal operatives, who are now present only in limited areas.

Besides, the high-level meet will also serve as a strategic platform to deliberate on India's other evolving internal security challenges and chart the future of modern policing, as per the agenda for the conference.

Still, complete eradication of Left-Wing-Extremism (LWE) will remain at the core of deliberations, as this remains a national priority set by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs with a targeted deadline of March 31, 2026.

With barely five months remaining, the discussions will centre on assessing current progress, identifying operational gaps and recalibrating strategies for the final phase of anti-Naxal campaigns, officials said.

"The Prime Minister and the Home Minister are expected to personally review feedback from DGPs and heads of central forces, ensuring on-ground challenges are directly addressed and operations remain aligned with the national priority of total elimination of Naxalism," a senior MHA official said.

According to the MHA officials, the meet will also address a broad spectrum of internal security and policing challenges, including innovation in modern policing.

Focus on tech-driven surveillance, AI in security

There will be a focussed discussion on improving tech-driven surveillance by adopting advanced tools and data-driven intelligence systems. Another focus area would be exploring effective use of AI in security, as the latest tech is considered both a threat and an opportunity for predictive policing, cyber defense and crime analysis, the officials said.

Study links food ads to unhealthy eating in kids

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

A new multinational study has established a direct link between exposure to food marketing and unhealthy dietary choices among children and adolescents.

Conducted across six countries, including Canada, Australia, Chile, Mexico, the UK, and the US, the study found that children exposed to advertisements for fast food, sugary drinks, cereals, snacks like chips, crackers or granola bars, and desserts such as cookies, candy and ice cream were significantly more likely to have consumed those very foods the previous day.

Published in the International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, the study urged governments worldwide to adopt mandatory, evidence-based restrictions on food marketing targeted at young people.

Dr Arun Gupta, paediatrician, nutrition advocate, and Convenor of Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi), a national think tank on nutrition, told this newspaper that the findings underline how marketing directly drives unhealthy consumption patterns. "This six-country study makes it clear that marketing is not a side issue — it's the key driver of unhealthy food consumption.

Ultra-processed and High-Fat, Salt, and Sugar (HFSS) foods are being aggressively marketed and advertised, shaping diets and fuelling obesity," he said. He noted that while India has acknowledged the issues under its National Multi-sectoral Action Plan (NMAP) 2017–2025 to curb obesity, meaningful restrictions on food marketing remain absent. "It's time to act now. India should not be an exception to the global call to curb food marketing and protect children's health," Dr Gupta added.

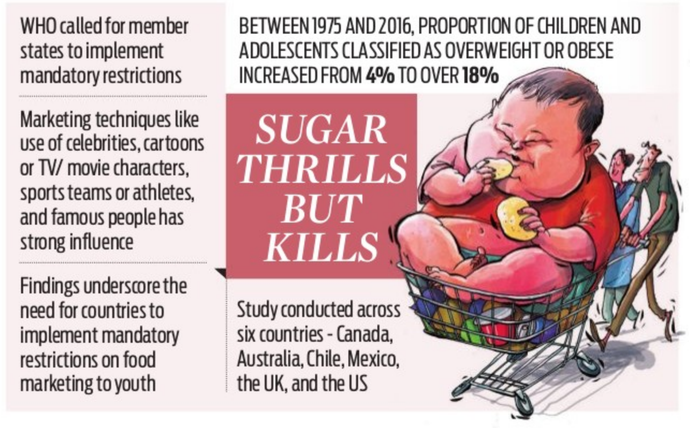
The study further highlighted the powerful impact of marketing techniques such as celebrity endorsements, cartoon or movie characters, sports icons and promotional tie-ups on shaping food preferences among youth. "Systematic reviews have shown that exposure to food and beverage marketing strongly influences youth food preferences, choices, and purchases," the study said, warning that most food products marketed to children are nutrient-poor and energy-dense. It added that children, due to limited cognitive development, are particularly vulnerable to persuasive marketing and often unable to distinguish advertisements from regular content.

The analysis drew on data from 9,057 participants aged 10 to 17 years collected through the 2023 International Food Policy Study Youth Survey. It assessed exposure to food advertisements across television, social media, product packaging, and retail environments, and its link to dietary behaviour.

Overall, 84.5% of respondents reported exposure to ads for sugary drinks, while 89% had seen fast-food advertisements in the past month.

The study reiterated the urgent need for countries to strengthen or introduce mandatory restrictions on food marketing to limit youth exposure to unhealthy foods.

Citing the World Health Organization, the study noted that unhealthy diets are major risk factors for chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer.


WHO called for member states to implement mandatory restrictions
Marketing techniques like use of celebrities, cartoons or TV/ movie characters, sports teams or athletes, and famous people has strong influence
Findings underscore the need for countries to implement mandatory restrictions on food marketing to youth
BETWEEN 1975 AND 2016, PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS CLASSIFIED AS OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE INCREASED FROM 4% TO OVER 18%
SUGAR THRILLS BUT KILLS
Study conducted across six countries - Canada, Australia, Chile, Mexico, the UK, and the US

India looks to press for fairer finance, economic security at COP30 talks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ADAPTATION, or the ability to cope with changing climate impacts, remains the weakest link. The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2025 estimates that developing countries need $387 billion every year to protect people, livelihoods and infrastructure. Present funding covers barely a quarter of that. The shortfall threatens to erase decades of progress in human development. South Asia, where heat waves are intensifying and extreme rainfall and floods are becoming routine, stands among the most exposed regions.

This year's summit meets under unsettled skies in more ways than one. The US, under Donald Trump's second presidency, has withdrawn again from the Paris Agreement, shaking confidence in the multilateral framework it once helped design.

Washington's retreat has slowed reforms in development finance and emboldened fossil-fuel interests elsewhere.

In this changing landscape, new alignments are emerging. The European Union, China, Brazil and India are exploring partnerships that balance climate action with economic security. India's G20 leadership and its One Sun One World One Grid renewables initiative could be a bridge between the global North and South.

At Belém, India is expected to argue for fairer finance, equitable responsibility and a stronger emphasis on adaptation funded through grants rather than loans.

Belém's setting is itself a message. The Amazon's forests, among the Earth's richest stores of carbon and biodiversity, are shrinking under pressure from wildfire and land clearing. The summit's location underlines that climate change is not a distant abstraction but a lived experience for communities and ecosystems alike.

For India and other nations of the Global South, COP30 is a chance to insist growth and climate action must go together. Finance remains essential, but credibility is built on delivery, on whether commitments translate into change that can be seen, felt and measured.

The world has already spent its climate credit. What leaders choose to do in Belém will decide whether they can still restore balance, or whether the Paris Agreement becomes another promise lost to time.

SUICIDE ATTEMPT

A college student set himself ablaze on Saturday, after being allegedly not allowed to appear in an examination over non-payment of fees, in Budhana town of UP's Muzaffarnagar district, police said.

1 YOUTH KILLED AFTER BIKE RAMS INTO DUMPER TRUCK IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	17	Mumbai	30	24
Bhopal	25	13	Panaji	31	21
Jaipur	27	14	Patna	26	16
Amritsar	26	11	Lucknow	27	14
Chennai	30	27	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	29	19	Imphal	27	14
Srinagar	16	02	Chandigarh	26	12

After first phase of polls, Nitish's JD(U) back on front foot

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

IN a delayed move, Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh endorsed Nitish Kumar as NDA's chief ministerial face after the first phase of polling got over on November 6. Sources in NDA camp said that BJP top leadership got feedback from party workers that non-declaration of a CM face created confusion among voters, especially among sympathisers of Nitish Kumar, who is campaigning on the theme of social welfare schemes.

BJP's clarification that Nitish would be as next chief minister if NDA returned to power assumes significance in the wake of Nitish's closed-door meeting with some top officers of the state administration after the first phase of elections. The officers, known as close confidants of Nitish, reportedly briefed him about the poll prospects of JD(U) candidates, along with those of the NDA allies.

The officers who were present in the confidential meeting of Nitish were particularly expressive about cooperation between Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) workers and those of JD(U) in their respective constituencies. In the 2020 assembly elections, Chirag Paswan had contested assembly elections solo and fielded candidates against JD(U), causing considerable damage to Nitish's party in more than 30 assembly seats.

'SECRET' MEET

1. Top bureaucrats apprised Nitish Kumar of prospects of JD(U) candidates
2. Home Minister Amit Shah also had a secret meeting with BJP officials
3. Fear of poor performance of its candidates in the first phase impacted BJP decision

On Friday, Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah also held a confidential meeting with core party leaders and sought to know about some particular seats, where BJP candidates were not confident about their victory. Shah wanted to know the reasons for the lukewarm response of voters in their assembly constituencies. "Shah was upset with the candidates' explanation," a source in BJP confided.

The source said that BJP leaders were not comfortable with the party's performance in the first phase. "That is the reason BJP changed its strategy and decided to put Nitish's face on the front ahead of the second phase of elections to be held in 122 seats on November 11," political analyst claimed.

In the first phase, elections were held in the seats across 18 districts, majority of them are held by JD(U). Out of the 121 seats that NDA is contesting in the first phase, JD(U) has fielded its candidates in 57 seats, BJP 48, LJP(RV) eight and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha in two seats, respectively.

In the 2020 assembly elections, opposition Mahagathbandhan had won 61 seats while ruling NDA registered its victory in 59 seats only.

● Home minister says shells to attack terrorists will be made in Bihar ● LoP says Haryana 'hydrogen bomb' exposed rolls manipulations

Oppn shielding infiltrators for vote bank politics: Shah

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused Opposition INDIA bloc, it of protecting infiltrators. He reaffirmed that the NDA government will drive out every infiltrator from the country and Bihar.

Winding up his campaign, Shah said, "Not long ago, Rahul Gandhi embarked on a major yatra. This yatra was to save the infiltrators. Rahul can undertake as many as yatras he wants, from Patna to Italy, but he won't be able to save the infiltrators."

Accusing Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of being more concerned about infiltrators from Bangladesh than Bihar's youth, Shah said Gandhi is trying to build a "corridor for infiltrators" while PM Narendra Modi is trying to develop an industrial corridor in Bihar.

He said the Opposition's vote bank politics has led them to make attempts for building a 'ghuspaithiya (infiltrator)' corridor, unlike Narendra Modi, who is setting up an industrial corridor. "People of Bihar will never allow infiltrators to derive benefits of welfare schemes," he asserted.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Shah said when the Congress-led alliance was in power at the Centre, "terrorists struck at will on our soil". "In contrast, now we are beating up the terrorists inside their homes," he said. "In future, if terrorists from Pakistan dare to carry out an attack again, bullets fired by them will be retaliated with mortar shells. Do you know where these mortar shells will be manufactured? In Bihar, in Sasaram, as Modi is trying to build a defence corridor here," he added.

Taking a jibe at Sonia Gandhi's Italian roots, Shah said, "Press the EVM button in favour of NDA candidates with such force that it sends shock waves as far as Italy." Reacting to Opposition's CM face Tejashwi and RJD chief Lalu Prasad, he said PM Modi could not 'in seven births' match the level of corruption allegedly committed by RJD leaders.

Shah addressed rallies in Sasaram and Arwal and appealed to voters to extend their support to NDA candidates to prevent return of 'jungle raj' in Bihar again.

Amit Shah addressed rallies in Sasaram and Arwal, urging support for NDA | EXPRESS

Eviction drive against illegal settlers resumes in Assam

The Assam government on Sunday resumed its eviction drive against illegal settlers on forest land. The drive, carried out in some eastern, western and northern districts of the state earlier, had been halted in the aftermath of music icon Zubeen Garg's death in Singapore.

Rahul: Govt set to change, guard against 'vote theft'

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday turned the heat on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of 'vote theft' in the country.

Addressing a public meeting in Kishanganj on the last day of campaign, Rahul said that 'vote theft' would eventually be caught and these individuals would be no exception. "Protecting the Constitution and preventing vote theft is everybody's duty," he asserted.

He alleged that earlier votes had been stolen in Maharashtra, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. "Similar attempts are being made in Bihar to steal votes," he said, adding that the Opposition party workers in cooperation with people would thwart vote theft attempts.

He referred to what he called a 'hydrogen bomb' in Haryana, saying the evidence of manipulation there had 'silenced' BJP. "BJP leaders are voting in two states each. PM Modi and Amit Shah don't win polls — they win by stealing votes," he said.Calling the Bihar polls as part of a wider ideological struggle, Congress leader said, "There is a battle between two ideologies in India. On one side is RSS, which controls caste, language and religion. On the other is Congress and Mahagathbandhan, which seek to unite every caste, religion and community."

Referring to Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul said he walked over 4000-km to open a shop of love in the market of hatred. "Modi has hatred of blood while I have love in mine. That is the difference between us," he told the gathering.

He also accused BJP led NDA government of deliberately distracting the youth from issues such as unemployment and education. "Ask yourself: why are the youth not getting jobs? How will they study when colleges and universities are closing? Bihar's youths are working in other states as labourers," he added.

He claimed that Mahagathbandhan would form next government. "There is a cent per cent change. But you must prevent BJP from vote theft. Remain vigilant at polling stations on the day polling will be held (November 11)," he said.

Rahul Gandhi holds a copy of the Consitution of India at a rally in Kishanganj | PTI

'Have more evidence of vote theft, will make it public'

Speaking in MP's Pachmarhi, Rahul raised the issue of "vote theft" and SIR of electoral rolls. "Vote theft has not just happened in Haryana, but also in Maharashtra, MP and Chhattisgarh. We've more evidence about it, which we will make public gradually," he told journalists there.

DECODE BIHAR POLL DECIDE

RJD rebel sets up a battle of three women in land of Sita

RAMASHANKAR @Sitamarhi

BIHAR'S women power has been a subject of animated discussion during the assembly election campaign, but the Parihar assembly constituency in Sitamarhi district stands out as three women are in the fray.

It's a contest among three influential women in the constituency, close to Maa Janki temple near Punaruadham, which caught nation's attention after Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation for renovation of the temple at ₹800 crore.

The seat is now held by BJP MLA Gayatri Devi, who is seeking re-election to make a hattrick. She defeated Ritu Jaiswal of the RJD by a margin of about 2000 votes in 2020 polls.

In 2010, Gayantri's husband Ram Naresh Yadav had won from Parihar that came into existence after delimitation in 2008. In 2015, Gayatri as a BJP nominee defeated Ram Chandra Purbe, then RJD state chief. In 2020, she retained the seat.

Ritu Jaiswal, RJD women's wing state president, is contesting as a rebel (Independent) as the party denied her ticket and fielded Smita Purbe, daughter in-law of Ram Chandra Purbe, from the seat. Rita had unsuccessfully contested 2019 Lok Sabha election from Sheohar.

"I decided to contest the election on the demand of my supporters and residents, who give me love and affection. How can I forget their fight for me in the previous assembly election which I lost by a slender margin," she told this reporter during her campaign.

Smita is trying to restore her father-in-law's legacy who represented neighbouring Sonbarsa many times. She is mainly relying on RJD's traditional MY (Yadav-Muslim support base) combination. Both Smita and Ritu belong to Vaishya community with a sizable population in the constituency.

Gayatri, a Yadav, has put RJD's Yadav voters in a fix. "I have supporters among Yadavs who will vote for me," she said, adding that the fight between Ritu and Smita has brightened her victory chances. Ritu started her political journey as a Singjvahini panchayat chief after quitting her job in Delhi. Married to a civil servant, she chose to stay in village.

Muslim voters are by and large in favour of RJD's Smita. "Had RJD fielded Ritu Jaiswal, she would have won," said Mohammad Javed of Indarba village. Migration, unemployment, and floods are key issues. "Roads are in good condition, electricity is available 24x7 and there a Kendriya Vidyalaya. But lack of job and job opportunities are the major problems here," said RBP Sinha, a retired engineer of Sithihara village.

Assam Cabinet approves bill banning polygamy; convicts to get 7-year jail

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Assam Cabinet on Sunday approved a bill to ban polygamy, for which convicts may face up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment.

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025—which will be tabled in the Assembly on November 25—will, however, give exemptions for ethnic communities and Sixth Schedule areas.

Addressing a press conference after a Cabinet meeting on Sunday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that while those convicted of polygamy may face up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment, hiding a previous marriage may invite 10 years of imprisonment. Kazis, priests and guardians also stand to get two years in jail.

Sarma added that the government would also create a fund to compensate women who end up as "victims" of polygamy. The state will offer financial assistance to such women so that they do not face hardships in life, Sarma added.

Polygamy is prohibited for any person who has a living spouse, or who is not legally separated by due procedure, or who is a party to a marriage not yet dissolved or annulled by decree, an official statement said.

3 NIT Silchar students drown in waterfall

Three first-year students of NIT Silchar drowned in the Bulchol (Hmunthajao) waterfall in Dima Hasao on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Sauhard Rai & Sarbavartika Singh of UP and Radhika from Bihar.

'Spiritual capital': PM launches ₹8K-cr projects in U'khand on silver jubilee

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the Uttarakhand government's "bold" steps on demographic change, uniform civil code (UCC) and illegal religious conversions, suggesting other states should emulate them.

Addressing an event on the sprawling Forest Research Institute grounds in Dehradun to mark the silver jubilee celebrations of the hill state, Modi said, "The seriousness with which the Dhami government implemented the UCC is an example for other states. The state government has adopted bold policies on issues of national interest, such as the anti-conversion and riot control laws."

On the occasion, Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹8,260.72 crore.

He further expressed hope that the state can emerge as the spiritual capital of the world in the years to come. "Uttarakhand serves as the spiritual heartbeat of India, drawing millions of pilgrims annually. The journey of these devotees opens the path of devotion and injects new energy into the state's economy," he mused, noting that the true essence of Uttarakhand lies in its spiritual power.

The PM also reflected on the state's long journey marked by economic and infrastructural progress. "Twenty-five years ago, the annual budget of Uttarakhand was around ₹4,000 crore. Today, it has surpassed ₹1 lakh crore. Also, in 25 years, power generation in the state has quadrupled," he said.

PM Narendra Modi and CM Pushkar Singh Dhami during a walkthrough of pavilions at an exhibition on Uttarakhand Formation Day in Dehradun. | PTI

2 Christians denied burial as C'garh villagers oppose; cops deployed after tension

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

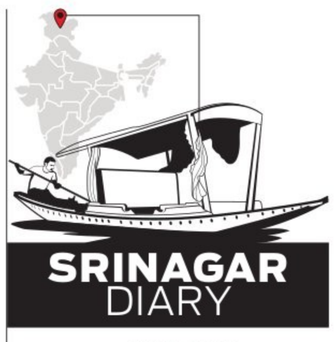
DAYS after the family of Manish Nishad (28)—a Christian convert from Kanker's Kodekurse village who died on November 5—struggled to perform his last rites amid opposition from other locals, a similar situation played out on Saturday in Balod's Jewartala.

After Raman Sahu (50), a local who had converted to Christianity a few years ago, succumbed to an illness at a private hospital in Raipur on Saturday, his body was brought back to Jewartala, distant about 90 km from the state capital. However, the locals denied him a burial at his native village.

Sahu's kin had to bury his body in Sankra, away from Jewartala, on Sunday, as other villagers were opposed to his decision to convert, Balod district police chief Yogesh Patel told this newspaper.

According to sources privy to the matter, police personnel had to be deployed to avert any untoward incident as tensions ran high in the area. In both instances, what acted as the spark to the powder keg of locals' ire was the two men's decision to embrace Christianity as their faith, police said.

Arun Pannalal, president of the Chhattisgarh Christian Forum, has taken a serious view of the matter. "Christians are being blatantly denied their constitutional right of a dignified burial at their native places while the authorities are largely seen as helpless," he rued.



SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
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Apologise for '16 killings, Omar tells Mehbooba

Former CM and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti should apologise for aligning with the BJP after contesting the Assembly elections against the saffron party in 2014 and for using excessive forces during the 2016 unrest in the Valley, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in his address at Budgam, which is set for bypolls on November 11. "There was death and destruction in 2016. She aligned with BJP after the 2014 polls. She has not apologised for the 2016 killings and aligning with BJP," he said. "She brought BJP to the Secretariat and sowed the seeds of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. But she is not ready to accept this historic blunder," he added.

Fake journalists no longer welcome

In a move to curb the growing menace of fake journalists, the administration has launched a comprehensive drive to identify and take action against individuals posing as media professionals. Acting on government directions, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has instructed all District Information Officers (DIOs) to maintain strict vigilance, coordinate with local authorities and prepare lists of accredited and bonafide journalists in the districts. All genuine journalists have been asked to submit documents like Aadhaar & PAN cards, appointment letters, organisation contact details, etc.

Valley-wide crackdown on misuse of SIM

Police have launched a Valley-wide crackdown on SIM misuse and are conducting special inspections of SIM card vendors across Kashmir. A police spokesperson said police has launched a massive crackdown on the illegal issuance of SIM cards across the Valley, including Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Awantipora, Baramulla and other districts. The special drive aims to identify and take action against vendors issuing SIM cards without following mandatory KYC procedures—a threat to public safety. The objective of the drive is to ensure the documentation process for issuing new SIM cards is transparent and legitimate.

150 buildings
demolished in Myanmar's crackdown on border scam hub

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

Lavrov accuses US of losing grip on Zelenskyy & NATO

Says Brussels, London are mounting pressure to abandon its diplomatic track, side with those advocating stronger military against Russia

MOSCOW

THE US seems to be facing headwinds in persuading Volodymyr Zelenskyy and NATO allies not to interfere with its efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Sunday.

Lavrov's comments came weeks after unsuccessful efforts for a summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump, as a follow up of the talks between the two leaders at Anchorage in Alaska on August 15 where they had not reached a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The Americans assured us back then (Alaska summit) that they would be able to ensure that Zelenskyy would not impede the achievement of peace. Apparently, certain difficulties have arisen on this issue," Lavrov said in an interview with state news agency RIA Novosti. "Furthermore, as far as we know, Brussels and London are trying to persuade Washington to abandon its intention to resolve the crisis through political and diplomatic means and fully engage in efforts to exert military pressure on Russia, that is, to finally become part of the 'war party'," he said.

Lavrov also underscored that despite the compromise reached at the summit in Anchorage, Moscow is firm on its fundamental principles: Russia's territorial integrity and the choice of the residents of Crimea, Donbass, and Novorossiya are not negotiable.

"We are now awaiting confirmation from the United States that the Anchorage agreements remain in force," Lavrov added. Putin has repeatedly stated that Russia advocates exclusively for a long-term settlement without any temporary ceasefires and that achieving such a settlement is possible only after addressing the root causes of the conflict. The root causes he identifies include the threats to Russia's national security arising from NATO expansion and the oppression of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.Lavrov had talked to his US counterpart Marco Rubio on October 20 to prepare for the Budapest summit between Putin and Trump, which was reportedly cancelled due to Moscow's rigid stand for seeking a political settlement before a ceasefire. The Russian Army, meanwhile, is advancing to capture strategic towns of Pokrovsk (Krasnoarmeisk) and Kupyansk where in pincer movements more than 10,000 Ukrainian troops along with NATO advisers are blocked. *PTI*

> **Americans had assured us that they would be able to ensure that Zelenskyy would not impede the achievement of peace. Apparently, certain difficulties have arisen on this issue**
>
> Sergey Lavrov,
> Russian Foreign Minister

Ukrainian strikes knock out power and heating in Russian border cities

KYIV

UKRAINIAN strikes disrupted power and heating to two major Russian cities near the Ukrainian border, local Russian officials reported on Sunday.

The report comes as Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure and US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war have not advanced.

Elsewhere, Ukraine's top diplomat accused Moscow of deliberately endangering nuclear safety, as he said Russia's mass drone and missile attack on Friday struck substations that power two nuclear power plants. And in Russia, the Kremlin spokesman said Moscow intended to honor its obligations under a global nuclear test ban, despite a recent order by President Vladimir Putin to study the possibility of resuming atomic tests.

Russian army soldiers fire to shoot a Ukrainian drone on an undisclosed location | AP

A drone strike temporarily caused blackouts and cut heating to parts of Voronezh, regional Gov. Alexander Gusev said. He said several drones were electronically jammed during the night over the city, home to just over 1 million people, sparking a fire at a local utility facility that was quickly extinguished.

Russian and Ukrainian news channels on Telegram claimed the strike targeted a local thermal power plant. Russia said its forces downed 44 Ukrainian drones overnight over Bryansk and Rostov, without mentioning other regions or total launches. *AP*

Syrian leader Al-Sharaa to meet Don, seek end to sanctions

BEIRUT

Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa will meet US President Donald Trump in Washington on Monday, in what is expected to mark Syria's formal entry into the US-led coalition against the Islamic State group. The meeting comes months after the two leaders first met in Saudi Arabia, where Trump announced plans to lift decades of sanctions on Damascus.

Two decades ago, al-Sharaa was held in a US-run detention center in Iraq after joining al-Qaida militants fighting American forces there — a far cry from his current role as the first Syrian president to visit Washington since the country's independence in 1946. Since rebel forces he led ousted former President Bashar Assad last December, al-Sharaa, who severed ties with al-Qaida years earlier, has launched a charm offensive to rebuild ties with nations that had isolated Syria after Assad's brutal 2011 crackdown that spiraled into a 14-year civil war. The visit will also focus on ending the remaining sanctions on Syria. *AP*

Migrants handed over after they were rescued by a sailboat | AP

Boat capsizes off Malaysia; 7 migrants dead, 13 rescued

KUALA LUMPUR

RESCUERS in Malaysia recovered the bodies of seven migrants from Myanmar and found 13 alive from a boat that capsized with dozens aboard, officials said on Sunday.

The vessel had departed from the town of Buthidaung, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, carrying some 300 people, said First Adm. Romli Mustafa from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, citing a preliminary investigation. Police and the maritime agency said the passengers were believed to have been split into three smaller boats once the vessel neared Malaysia. One of the boats was believed to have sank near Tarutao island in southern Thailand on Thursday, and some of the victims drifted into Malaysia's northern resort island of Langkawi, the authorities said.

The timing and exact location of the incident is not known. The fate of the other two boats is also unclear, officials said. Local media quoted the Kedah state police chief in northern Malaysia, Adzli Abu Shah, as saying that some of those rescued were Rohingya Muslims, from Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for decades. Romli warned that cross-border syndicates are increasingly exploiting migrants via dangerous sea routes. *AP*

6.9 earthquake rattles northern Japan; tsunami advisory lifted

LONDON: A powerful quake rattled northern Japan Sunday evening, followed by several more temblors, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. A tsunami advisory was issued. The earthquake, with an upgraded magnitude of 6.9 and depth of 16 kilometers, struck off the coast of Iwate prefecture at 5.03pm Japan time. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, or any reports of abnormalities at the two nuclear power plants in the area. The agency issued an advisory for a tsunami of up to 1 meter along the northern coastal region, and subsequently said the water could reach as high as 3 meters in some spots. A tsunami of about 10 centimeters was detected at Ofunato city in Iwate Prefecture, Ominato port, Miyako and Kamaishi, and subsequently as high as 20 centimeters in the coastal area of Kuji. The tsunami that followed in Ofunato also reached 20 centimeters, according to the agency.

Britain deploys anti-drone experts to Belgium after airport incursions

LONDON

BRITAIN is sending anti-drone equipment and personnel to Belgium after a spate of sightings near airports and military bases, the head of the UK military said on Sunday.

In the past week both Belgium's main international airport at Brussels and Liege, one of Europe's biggest cargo airports, were forced to close temporarily because of drone incursions. That came after a series of unidentified drone flights near a military base where US nuclear weapons are stored.

Air Chief Marshal Richard Knighton, the head of Britain's armed forces, said the UK had agreed to "deploy our people, our equipment to Belgium to help them," after a request from Belgian authorities.

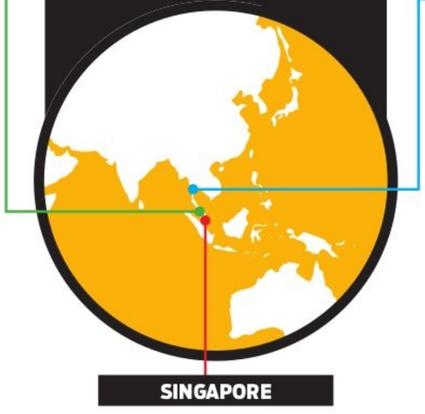
"We don't know — and the Belgians don't yet know — the source of those drones, but we will help them by providing our kit and capability, which has already started to deploy to help Belgium," Knighton told the *BBC*. Defense Secretary John Healey said the UK was sending a team of Royal Air Force specialists to NATO ally Belgium "to counter rogue drone activity."

A no drone sign just outside the perimeter of Brussels International Airport in Zaventem, Belgium | AP

"As hybrid threats grow, our strength lies in our alliances and our collective resolve to defend, deter and protect our critical infrastructure and airspace," he said. In recent months, drone incidents across Europe have forced airports to suspend flights at a time. Russia has been blamed in some cases, but Belgium has not said who has been operating the drones. Belgian Defense Minister Theo Francken said that he believed that some incidents were part of "a spying operation" that could not have been done by amateurs.

Belgium is home to the headquarters of NATO and the European Union, as well as Europe's biggest financial clearinghouse holding tens of billions of euros in frozen Russian assets. EU nations seek to use the assets for Ukraine loans; Belgium resists. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS



MALAYSIA

SITES WILL BE FINED FOR CHILD SAFETY LAPSES

The government is finalising a system to penalise digital platforms that violate new child protection rules under Regulation No. 17 of 2025. The regulation requires companies to block harmful content, verify users' ages, and ban profiling of children's data. Communication Minister Meutya Hafid said sanctions target platforms, not individuals, and will be enforced in phases. Modeled partly on Australia's approach, the policy aims to curb online exploitation of children. Authorities will also promote digital safety and responsibility among families.

SINGAPORE

PM HOPES 5G TEAM TO EMERGE BY NEXT POLLS

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said he hopes outlines of the People's Action Party's fifth-generation leadership will emerge by the next general election. Speaking at the PAP convention, he said renewal must never stop as the party refreshes its ranks and attracts capable Singaporeans to serve. The next election must be called by 2030.

THAILAND

12 INJURED IN LAMPANG BUS CRASH

A tour bus carrying 38 foreign tourists overturned on the Lampang–Chiang Mai highway on Sunday, injuring 12 people and forcing a temporary road closure, police said. The accident occurred about two kilometres from the Mae Tha border area in Lamphun Province when the bus veered off the road and flipped over on a sharp downhill curve. Two people were seriously injured and 10 sustained minor wounds. Rescue teams took the injured to Hang Chat Hospital. Crews cordoned off the area, cut power to damaged utility poles, and deployed cranes to remove the bus from the scene.

A Red Cross convoy carrying the remains of an Israeli soldier, Hadar Goldin, killed in Gaza in 2014 heads to the Israel border at Deir al-Balah | AP

Israel recovers remains of soldier held since 2014

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL on Sunday received the remains of a hostage in Gaza which Hamas said were the body of an Israeli soldier who was killed in 2014 and held for 11 years. His remains had been the only ones left in Gaza predating the current war between Israel and Hamas.

Hamas said that it found the remains of Hadar Goldin in a tunnel in the southernmost city of Rafah on Saturday. Goldin was killed on August 1, 2014, two hours after a ceasefire took effect in that year's war between Israel and Hamas.

"Israel believes the remains now in our hands are of Lt Hadar Goldin," Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian said, but emphasized that forensic confirmation was needed. That could come within hours.

The return of Goldin's remains, a national symbol, marks rare progress in the faltering US-brokered truce, stalled by slow exchanges and Gaza clashes. Four hostages' remains are still believed to be in the enclave. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said holding Goldin's body so long caused "great agony" for his family, which can now give him a proper burial. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Share Certificate(s) Nos.1816 for .100 Equity Shares valued at Rs.1000/- face value (Rupees Ten per share only) bearing Distinctive Nos 4679002 to 4679101 ofM/s.GKN Drive line India Limited (Formerly known as M/s.GKN Driveshafts India ltd) having its Registered Office at 270,Sector 24, Faridabad,121006 India standing in the name(s) of Mr.RAJ KUMAR NARANG a resident of House no 180,5th Main, KEB Layout Sanjay Nagar,Bangalore-560094, Karnataka,India have been lost and that an application for the issue of duplicate(s) in lieu thereof has has to be made to the Company. Any person/entity who have any claim or objections, if any, in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such complaints with the company within 15 days from the date of this publication after which nu claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s). The public are cautioned against dealing in any way with these shares.

Harish Shetty.H., Advocate
67/A, 1stMain road, CIL Layout,Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore-560094. Mobile: 9449209328.
Email: HHSHETTY3@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my client A.V. Chandrashekar, son of Late A.P. Venkataramaiah, residing at No. 406, "Ashutosha", 3rd Floor, B-Wing, Ram Sridhar Apartment, No.199/1, 9th Main, 2nd Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560076 intends to purchase the Schedule Property hereunder from the children of Late Walter G Mendonza and Late Jovina Mendonza namely Mr. Pradeep Mendonza, Mr. Naveen Mendonza, and Mr. Rohan Mendonza, who are the joint absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property.

Any person/s, institution/s, or body corporate claiming any right, title, interest, charge, encumbrance, mortgage, leasehold, tenancy, easement, or any other claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is/are hereby called upon to submit his/her/their objections or claims, if any, in writing with supporting documents, to the undersigned within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no such objection/s is/are received within the aforesaid period, it shall be deemed that there are no claims or encumbrances over the Schedule Property, and my client may proceed with the purchase and registration of the Sale Deed in respect of the Schedule Property, free from any claim/s or demand/s from any person/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 534, Block No. IV "T", situated at 20th Main Road, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, now under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 168 – Pattabiramanagar, assigned with Municipal No. 63, New No. 534/63, BBMP PID No. 58-15-63, and E-Aasthi No. 7349029457,
measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2,400 square feet, together with the building constructed thereon consisting of Ground and First Floors and bounded as follows: East by: Road West by: Site No. 488 North by: Site No. 535 South by: Site No. 533

Sd/- **(Shashank R)**
Advocate for the Intending Purchaser
Address: No. D 06, 6thFloor, Jain Heights "Solus", No. 2, 1st Cross, JC Road,Bengaluru - 560027. Mobile No: +91 8892344158
Email ID: rshashankr222@gmail.com
Place: Bangalore
Date: 10.11.2025

Hg Date: 17/12/2025

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BENGALURU (CCH-22)

P. & SC. No. 25060 /2025

1) Mr. MANUEL JAYAPAUL, Aged about 80 years, S/o. Mr. Arul Swamy, Residing at No.6, Murugesh Mudallar, Pulikeshinagar, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560005.
2) Mr. MALAR NATHAN, Aged about 78 years, S/o Late. Maria Arul Swamy, Residing at No.6, Murugesh Mudallar, Pulikeshinagar, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560005.
3) Mr. ARULSWAMY AMALANATHAN, Aged about 84 years, S/o Late. Maria Arul Swamy, Residing at No.6, Murugesh Mudallar, Pulikeshinagar, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560005.

Petitioner No.3 Duly represented by Younger brother and Attorney Holder **Mr. MANUEL JAYAPAUL** Aged about 80 years, S/o. Mr. Arul Swamy, Residing at No.6, Murugesh Mudallar, Pulikeshinagar, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560005. ...PETITIONERS
AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named have filed petition to this Hon'ble Court under section 372 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 seeking succession certificate in respect of the fixed deposit, savings bank accounts in respect of late Mr. Charles A Lourd Nathan who expired on 26/10/2017 as detailed in the schedule below.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or through pleader duly instructed **on 17/12/2025 at 11.00 a.m** to show cause against the petition, failing wherein the said petition will be heard and determined ex-parte.

"SUIT SCHEDULE ASSETS"

i) The Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd., Shivajinagar Branch, No. 26/3, Bowring Hospital, Shivajinagar, Bangalore - 560001.

The Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd - Shivaji Nagar Branch		
Saving Bank Account	100510201 0006840	₹ 2,03,274.00
Fixed Deposit	100560303 00000300	₹ 1,00,000.00

ii) The Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd., Head Office at No. 1, Uttunga, Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 16.

The Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd - Head Office Branch		
Saving Bank Account	20116738	₹ 85,152.00
Fixed Deposit	3035534	₹ 1,00,000.00
Fixed Deposit	3035535	₹ 50,000.00

iii) Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infantry Road Branch (Kasturba Road), KMBL, 9 - Old No. 7, Sri Vardaman Mahavir Jain Sangha, Infantry Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560001.

Kotak Mahindra Bank - Infantry Road Branch		
Saving Bank Account	139010051503	₹ 62,172.29
Fixed Deposit	139091022731	₹ 48,562.01
Fixed Deposit	139091022742	₹ 48,562.01

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 6th day of November 2025.

By Order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit, Bangalore.
Advocate for Petitioner : **V. JAYKER**, KAR 1397/2001
#122, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru-560084.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Thrusday 20-11-2025 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 7795228669 **FEDGL0088**0007560, 0007561 **Arakalgud** 9964260350 **FEDGL0036**0015848, 0015851, 0015869 **Arasikere** 9620276545 **FEDGL0414**0006370 **B H Road** 8904344610 **FEDGL0103**0019991, 0020000 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 7353577995 **FEDGL0011**0013317 **BELGAUM** 9538166084 **FEDGL0136**0008547, 0008551, 0008580, 0008591, 0008593, 0008595 **BELUR** 9380453339 **FEDGL0159**0013226, 0013233 **BOMMANAHALLI** 8555046900 **FEDGL0014**0009172 **BTM LAYOUT** 9980764782 **FEDGL0003**0007839 **BYADGI** 8970590276 **FEDGL0051**0014431, 0014443, 0014445, 0014455, 0014460, 0014468, 0014469 **Caltex Circle** 9900291944 **FEDGL0102**0017752 **Car Street Bellary** 9535205038 **FEDGL0092**0005949, 0005974, 0007066 **CHANNAPATNA** 9743172738 **FEDGL0176**0021734, 0021976 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 9739489738 **FEDGL0158**0025754, 0025788 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 9164264697 **FEDGL0021**0009689, 0009948 **dharwad** 8152913405 **FEDGL0233**0007895 **Gadag** 9902373905 **FEDGL0420**0006946 **Gangavathi** 9972317836 **FEDGL0094**0008189 **Gubbi** 7760812077 **FEDGL0046**0019893, 0019908, 0019929, 0019941, 0019946, 0019954, 0020624, 0022793, 0022802 **H D Kote** 8147199881 **FEDGL0058**0012797 **Hagaribommanhalli** 9481555371 **FEDGL0100**0013692, 0013706, 0013725, 0013742 **HANSUR** 8722501240 **FEDGL0162**0019253, 0019256, 0019258, 0019277 **Harappanahalli** 9945998329 **FEDGL0104**0012506, 0013998 **HARIHAR** 8147533256 **FEDGL0022**0016651 **HASSAN MARKET** 8970429398 **FEDGL0157**0017538 **Holenarsipura** 9591033235 **FEDGL0059**0026149 **Hosadurga** 8105000953 **FEDGL0412**0008016, 0008037 **Hospet** 9743956995 **FEDGL0099**0010913, 0010919, 0010947, 0012576 **K R Pete** 9880106025 **FEDGL0063**0010579, 0012277 **K R PURAM** 8150839437 **FEDGL0012**0015454 **Kadur** 9844224685 **FEDGL0487**0007244 **Kampli** 6361077968 **FEDGL0095**0010948, 0010951, 0010964 **Kappogal Road Bellary** 9901476647 **FEDGL0093**0006389, 0006417, 0006424, 0006428 **Koppal** 9980073958 **FEDGL0403**0004672 **Kudligi** 7760491423 **FEDGL0404**0008913, 0008924, 0008937, 0008939, 0008958, 0008959 **Laxmeshwara** 9902888271 **FEDGL0407**0003577, 0003578 **Madhugiri** 9972981737 **FEDGL0393**0011947, 0012000, 0014830 **Malavalli** 9742509190 **FEDGL0365**0007752, 0007753 **Malebennur** 8884276416 **FEDGL0062**0013792, 0015145 **MANDYA** 8453194687 **FEDGL0163**0010079 **Mundargi** 9886453768 **FEDGL0064**0012329, 0012349, 0012350, 0012354 **Nagarbhavi** 9731083847 **FEDGL0031**0007875, 0007876 **NANJANGODE** 9611312789 **FEDGL0160**0019015 **Pavagada** 9448386998 **FEDGL0377**0013300, 0013322, 0013337, 0013368 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 9379513202 **FEDGL0035**0003729, 0003749 **RAMANAGARA** 8197884697 **FEDGL0180**0027275, 0027324 **FEDDS0180**0000485, 0000487 **RANEBENNUR** 8904013982 **FEDGL0232**0013260, 0013273, 0013278, 0014231 **Sindhanur** 8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0005297, 0005302, 0005321 **Sira** 9686864110 **FEDGL0376**0013985, 0014012 **Tiptur** 9739894909 **FEDGL0047**0012512

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 19-11-2025 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 10.11.2025 **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
Place : Karnataka **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

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875 MT production target Coal India has for the current fiscal year, says CMD Sanoj Kumar Jha on Sunday

Reporting financial fraud on Sachet portal

Anyone who has lost or been cheated of their investments can file complaint by logging into the RBI operated portal

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

ARE you a victim of fraudulent investment, deposit, Ponzi schemes, or cyber frauds linked to any financial sector entities regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), or Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)? If yes, you can file a complaint through dedicated portal Sachet.rbi.org.in. Once filed, your complaint will be forwarded to the authorities concerned for remedial action.

While we often recall large-scale investment scams or ponzi schemes run by big players such as Pearl Group (which duped investors of ₹45,000 cr), Sahara Group (₹24,000 cr), or Saradha Group (₹22,000 cr), countless smaller fraudsters continue to operate across the country. The portal offers 13 language options — from Assamese to Urdu — and allows the public to lodge complaints related to fraudulent deposits or investment schemes.

Anyone who has lost or been cheated of their investments can file a complaint online by logging into the portal, operated by the RBI in coordination with the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC). SLCC is a forum of regulators and enforcement agencies that facilitates information sharing between the RBI, Sebi, IRDAI, and state or federal enforcement bodies to control unauthorised deposit-taking activities.

The portal is not limited to entities regulated by the RBI alone — it also covers fraudulent investment schemes under Sebi's purview and insurance-related scams under IRDAI.

To file a complaint, log in to the portal, identify appropriate

regulator, and submit your mobile number. You will receive updates on the status of your complaint and the contact details of the relevant authority. If you are unable to identify the regulator, the portal provides an option to help you do so. Selecting the correct regulator ensures faster resolution. Once submitted, complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate regulator or law enforcement authority for action. If you don't receive a response, you can contact the SLCC team using the email address provided in acknowledgment message.

You can update your complaint via email, and the portal allows you to track its status online. As per an RBI report, the public lost over ₹22,845 crore — a 194% year-on-year rise — to cyber financial frauds, including online investment and deposit schemes, in 2024. The total amount lost across all types of bank and financial frauds reached ₹36,014 crore, a threefold rise from 2023, even as the number of reported cases fell to about 24,000. Of this, banks and police could block or recover about ₹5,500 crore before the funds exited the financial system, due to structural gaps.

How to avoid fraud

Be wary of high returns: If an offer seems too good to be true. Legitimate investments provide realistic returns.

Research before investing: Verify credentials of a company or offer. Ensure it is registered, regulated, and has a credible track record.

Protect personal data: Never share personal or financial information with anyone, especially if they contact you unexpectedly.

Report suspicious activity: If you suspect or have fallen victim to a scam, report it to the authorities — file a police complaint, register a case on the National Cyber Crime Portal, and submit your details on the Sachet portal.

IN CONVERSATION

SALEE SUKUMARAN NAIR
Managing director and chief executive officer, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

'We have reversed declining CASA trends through various steps'

THOOTHUKUDI-BASED private bank Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) reported a rise of 5% in net profit and a flat growth in net interest income in Q2FY26. In an interaction with **Sanal Sudevan**, MD and CEO **Salee Sukumaran Nair** spoke on the bank's quarterly performance, interest rate outlook and plans to ramp up AI adoption. **Excerpts:**

What are the reasons for the growth of the bank? What is your growth target for the year-end?
We have put in a lot of effort in the last two-three quarters. The growth is slowly moving up. Earlier in FY25, we did underperform the market and at that time, I had said the bank's performance would be in line with the market. But the second quarter results show we slightly outperformed the market. In the second half, we expect to do even better. We closed the quarter with 11.40% in business growth — 12.32% deposit growth and 10.34% growth in advances. We expect to close the year with a 13% deposit growth and 14-15% growth in advances. CASA has been a worry for the industry and for us. We have taken initiatives like transaction business group (TBG), elite services group and online current account opening, which have resulted in CASA share increasing 58 bps to 27.36%. The CASA growth in Q2 was 5.22% QoQ and 9.3% YoY.

What is your target for NIM for next quarter and financial year? Do you expect a repo cut in the next MPC meeting?
Assuming there are no repo rate cuts, we are targeting 3.85% NIM by March 2026 from 3.83%. Rate cut reduces pricing of 50% of loan portfolio while deposits take three quarters for repricing. We are in the happy situation where deposits portfolio is getting repriced and the advance portfolio has gotten repriced in. As for rate cut, there is an expectation there will be a 25 bps cut in repo rate. But with inflation trending down and people talking about a 6-6.5% growth rate, we will have to wait and see.

If there are no repo rate cuts, we are targeting 3.85% NIM by March 2026 from 3.83% now. Rate cut lowers pricing of 50% of loan portfolio while deposits take 3 quarters for repricing

What is the value of gold loan portfolio?
We have around 34 tonne of gold or ₹21,000 crore of advances against gold.

What is your export credit growth status?
Our export credit portfolio is 1.05% of credit portfolio worth ₹47,000 crore. We are setting up a business unit focusing on trade finance, forex side, etc. We hope to see this pick up in the future. Because this number is small, US tariffs have not impacted us. We do trade finance business via various branches. We want to have a dedicated unit that focuses on trade finance and the unit is in the process of setting it up.

What is the status of recruitment in the past six months?
We have taken some steps to diversify human resource base. We have opened 600th branch in Kerala and we are focusing on hiring locals. We are also looking forward to hiring local talents from the states where we are focusing to expand our base and open new branches. We are hiring probationary officers in respective states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka. This will help us to have local connections and culturally they will be accustomed to the respective region. They will graduate in the next four months.

On October 27, we recruited 89 probationary officers for non-Tamil Nadu branches. This is over and above 115 we recruited six months through the IBPS (institute of banking personnel selection) route. We have recruited nearly 294 clerks, 75 data entry operators (DOE) and 20 doctorates and another 20 branch heads outside Tamil Nadu. The bank recruited 496 in 2024-25, and 396 in 2025-26. From 2026-27 onwards, we are targeting 500 new hirings every year for the next two to three years.

What is the level of AI adoption in various departments of the bank?
We are taking baby steps in the AI space. We have introduced AI in human capital management. We have formed a cross-functional team to understand where we can implement AI across different departments.

MONEY-WISE

IS FACTOR INVESTING HERE TO STAY?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

AT a recent seminar where I was a speaker, I was asked whether I felt Factor Investing is here to stay. Before sharing my response at the conclusion of this column, let us first take a deep dive into the concept and modus operandi of Factor Investing.

Factor investing funds that are offered to investors by mutual fund houses use specific 'factors' while making investments. Factor investing funds use data and research to build a portfolio based on specific characteristics or factors in stocks that have historically optimised performance while lowering risk. These factors can include value, momentum, quality, volatility and size.

Factor investing is not a new concept. Institutional investors and hedge funds have been using these strategies for decades. But these techniques have become more accessible to everyday investors via mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). These funds use algorithms and historical data to create rule-based investment models. This makes process more systematic and reduces need for decision-making based on predictions or emotions.

In India, factor investing funds are still a relatively novel concept but it is gradually gaining interest. Several fund houses have launched products that follow single-factor or multi-factor strategies. A single-factor fund focuses on just one characteristic like value or quality, while a multi-factor fund combines two or more factors. The aim of multi-factor funds is to balance out the risks of any one factor underperforming.

Another key benefit of factor investing is transparency. Since the fund follows a rule-based approach, investors have a better idea of how their money is being managed. This is different from traditional active funds where the strategy might depend on the fund manager's decisions, which can at times be difficult to predict. Factor-based funds are more cost-effective than fully active funds because the process is largely automated and does not require constant buying and selling.

However, factor investing carries its own risks. It is data driven and just because a strategy has worked in the past does not mean it will always work. Markets go through different cycles, and certain factors may perform poorly during specific periods. Investors can replicate similar strategies, potentially curtailing its impact over time.

For Indian investors who are considering factor investing mutual funds, it's important to understand your own investment goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. These funds can be a useful part of a diversified portfolio, especially for investors looking for a more scientific and disciplined approach to investing. But like all other equity-based investing, here too, patience and holding for long term are keys to benefit there from.

To conclude, Factor Investing, though novel, data driven and cost-effective has its own pitfalls that an investor must do their own due diligence or seek professional advise before taking the plunge. As for the original question whether factor investing is here to stay – me thinks the answer is Yes, albeit after an evolution process that might involve iterations.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT IS MARKET INTEGRITY?

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IF you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters. An American politician, Alan K. Simpson, who represented the US state of Wyoming in the US Senate and the Congress, once made this remarkable statement. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, last week spoke on investor protection and market integrity. He argued that market integrity means a market infrastructure resilient to shocks—technical, operational, and behavioural. He emphasised that it meant transparent, fair and orderly transactions with no hidden costs, no preferential access and no manipulation. The role of stockbrokers, who are the intermediaries, matters to you. Sebi regulates them by issuing rules for the game. Their behaviour determines whether you, the investor, believe that you are in a fair game. You will stay away from the market if your trust is exploited.

There are many conflicting issues in India's capital markets that undermine the fairness of the game.

First, the government is the biggest player and an umpire in this game. The Indian government owns over 10% of the value of shares listed on Indian stock exchanges. That is half a trillion USD worth of listed Indian shares through public-sector ownership. Sebi is a constituted body under an Act of Parliament, but the government makes key appointments. The same is true of other regulators in the financial markets, like the Reserve Bank of India or the IRDAI, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. That is the system for a long time now. Yet, if you were to judge on the parameter of market integrity, it is the first big observation you can make. The government owns a large number of listed companies in the energy, financial services, and other key infrastructure sectors. They are listed on stock exchanges, just like private companies, and are regulated by various watchdogs.

In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management through a webinar. He said that when a government engages in business, it leads to losses. "The government is bound by rules and lacks the courage to take bold business decisions. It is the government's duty to support enterprises and businesses. However, it is not essential that it should own and run the enterprises," he had said. All of that sounded like the speeches made by leaders of the United States and the UK in the 80s. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher unleashed reforms to ensure that their respective governments played limited roles in business. There was hope that we might see something similar playing out in India.

We rarely get to hear those words from the Indian government again. The government has barely met any disinvestment targets and continues to support many public sector companies. The government and regulators want to eliminate conflicts of interest between investors and intermediaries such as brokers, stock exchanges, credit rating agencies, banks, and other entities in the financial system. The government needs to lead the way. It is important that the government start by decisively diminishing its role as a player. That will automatically make the government a better umpire. That could result in a credible enforcement of rules and regulations.

With under 10% of the population participating in equity markets, India has a long way to go before an equity cult shapes the future of every household. While there has been momentum over the past 10 years with the rapid expansion of last-mile connectivity driven by mobile phone penetration, merely signing people up may not be enough. To win them over, the government needs to take steps to guarantee a fair game. It will require some significant political courage and a vision that will eventually bring prosperity to Indian households.

Derivatives turnover hits 12-month high

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

DESPITE many a measure that capital markets regulator Sebi has introduced since last November, the average daily turnover (ADTV) in the derivatives market rose to a 12-month high in October at ₹506 lakh crore — up nearly 46% since June, when it had plunged to the lowest since last November— as volatility picked up and concerns over further regulatory tightening eased.

The October turnover is just 5.6% lower than the peak of ₹516 lakh crore it had scaled in September 2024— when it became the world's largest derivatives market with close to 75% of the global ADTV, of which 95% was on the NSE alone.

Derivatives activity had slumped earlier this year after the Securities and Exchange Board had capped weekly expiries to two days and discontinued weekly contracts on non-benchmark indices. However, the successive talks from Sebi brass that they can't shutter the future & options (F&O) market, had lifted the sentiments and volume.

Oct turnover just 5.6% lower than peak of ₹516 lakh cr

October 2025 turnover is just 5.6% lower than the peak of ₹516 lakh crore it had scaled in September 2024— when it became the world's largest derivatives market with close to 75% of the global average daily turnover, of which 95% was on the NSE alone

Beginning last November, Sebi under the previous chairperson Madhabi Puri-Buch had rolled out a slew of curbs to control the volume such as bringing down the weekly expiries to just one each on each exchange; increasing the minimum contract size, making it more expensive for retail investors to trade and the upfront premium for options to make them pay the full premium upfront. These were the measures aimed at reducing the speculative leverage.

The regulator also removed calendar spread benefits by offsetting positions across different contract months; increased the intraday monitoring of intraday positions to detect potential misuse; set higher margins, particularly near the expiry dates, along with an additional 'extreme loss margin' of 2% on short option contracts; tighter position limits for market-wide position limits to better align derivatives exposure with cash market liquidity; and rationalising strike prices by limiting the index options contracts at launch to 50.

Markets likely to remain volatile in coming week on global uncertainties

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity market is expected to remain volatile in the coming week over changing global cues related to uncertainty surrounding trade and tariff discussions, and foreign institutional investors (FII) restarting their selling streak.

The markets ended lower for the second consecutive week despite optimism surrounding progress in India-US trade talks as mixed Q2 earnings, along with FII exodus and negative global cues. The two benchmark indices – BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty - declined by over 0.80%, with the Sensex closing at 83,216.28 and the Nifty settling at 25,492.30. Among the broader indices, the Midcap index ended flat, while the Smallcap index declined 1.7%, indicating profit booking in the broader space.

While short-term sentiment could stay cautious due to persistent FII outflows and uneven earnings, improving domestic macro indicators and corporate performance may provide underlying support

Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking

"Markets are likely to remain volatile in the near term amid global uncertainties and a heavy flow of economic and earnings data. While short-term sentiment could stay cautious due to persistent FII outflows and uneven earnings, improving domestic macro indicators and steady corporate performance may provide underlying support," said Ajit Mishra – SVP, research, Religare Broking.

He added that traders should maintain a stock-specific approach, focusing on sectors such as banking (especially PSU banks), auto, and select metal counters, which continue to show relative strength. "Maintaining a few hedged short positions against long trades may also be prudent, considering recent weakness in select stocks post-earnings.," stated Mishra.

RR may trade Samson for CSK's Jadeja & Curran?

Rajasthan Royals are likely to trade their captain Sanju Samson for star Chennai Super Kings all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran ahead of the Indian Premier League 2026. A senior official from five-time IPL winners CSK confirmed to *PTI* that the franchise is interested in roping in Samson, who has also been a regular member of the Indian T20I side.

AIFF holds review meeting on RFP

Head of bids committee and former SC judge Justice Rao could submit report to Apex Court by Tuesday

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

WHEN the All India Football Federation (AIFF) told the Supreme Court in September that a new commercial partner to run the Indian Super League (ISL), the country's premier football competition would be finalised by October 15 through a 'open, competitive and transparent' tender process, it gave a glimmer of hope to clubs. Not even a month has elapsed since the extended deadline (Nov 7), the clubs stare at another wave of uncertainty after the AIFF confirmed it has not received any bids for its Request for Proposal (RFP).

Among other conditions, one of the terms was hosting the ISL. The AIFF on Sunday in a statement said they had a meeting to review and discuss the RFP. "The Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) held a meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2025 to review and discuss the status of the "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Awarding the Right to Monetise the Commercial Rights Belonging to the All India Football Federation for a Limited Term," it said.

₹250 crore
The minimum annual turnover for a company to take part in the technical bid process to run the ISL

₹37.5 crore
or five percent of gross revenue — whichever is higher — is to be paid by the commercial partner as Governance and Development Fees

"Following the deliberations of the Committee, the Chairperson of the committee Justice (Retd.) L. Nageswara Rao, will submit his report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as the next step in the process." An AIFF official said this could happen by Tuesday.

After the AIFF's assurance to clubs that the season will begin by December, they resumed operations, signed players and played the Super Cup which began on October 25. A day after the league stage of the Super Cup concluded, where 10 ISL teams bowed out of the tournament, the AIFF had made the confirmation of receiving any bids.

If one takes a closer look at the RFP released a day after the original deadline expired (Oct 15), one can see their monetary expectations are almost similar to the one in the expiring Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL). Notably, the FSDL is the commercial arm of the federation that hosts ISL. An annual guaranteed sum of Rs 37.5 crore (It collected Rs 50 crore from FSDL) or five per cent of annual gross revenue, whichever is higher between the two, is to be collected by the AIFF over a period of 15 years from December this year.Since AIFF has not received any bids, this could prompt the governing body to rethink the terms in the tender document.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey (4th from left) is part of bids evaluation committee

The committee comprises Rao, AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and Kesvaran Murugasu of the Asian Football Confederation as an independent member. Earlier, the AIFF confirmed through a statement that Rao will submit a report. The process is overlooked by the Supreme Court, and this report may prompt the court to take cognizance of the matter. This could even lead to delay in commencement of ISL. Another question mark would be on the number of matches scheduled to be played. In the tender document, 14 teams will play each other in a double round-robin format, summing up to 189 matches. With the season's last day at 31st May 2026, conducting all of those matches would be a tough ask, considering the harsh conditions in the first five months of the year. Then, the only option will be to rethink the number of planned fixtures, preferably reduce it. The ISL remains crucial to the functioning of Indian football. Players, staff and other contracted workers depend on the league for their bread and butter. Already enduring a tough period, when its senior men's national team failed to qualify to the AFC Asian Cup, Indian football can't risk another long period of delay. There is a possibility that the continental body AFC will have a close eye. If the AIFF does not hold the ISL, then clubs may not be able to compete in continental tournaments. According to an AIFF official, this could have an impact on the lower division leagues, both national men's and women's, because of the ISL's lack of bids. Given the situation, an anxious wait for Tuesday begins, as clubs cannot afford another delay and to financially bleed.

Kerala Blasters suspend first-team training

Following Mohun Bagan's decision to suspend first-team training, Kerala Blasters on Sunday confirmed that it suspended first-team training 'indefinitely.' Blasters bowed out of the Super Cup tournament, losing 0-1 to Mumbai City FC on Thursday (November 6). "There is no tournament for us to play now. The players are now sent home," a club source told this daily. The source also felt that the AIFF had coaxed teams into beginning the season, only to be staring at another wave of uncertainty. "The Federation has not given us a tentative date yet. We await a swift decision on the same and we hope that the season starts," the source added. Salaries, however, would not be suspended for now.

Anish Bhanwala in action during the World Championship on Sunday

WORLD C'SHIP: ANISH ENDS WAIT, CAPTURES SILVER

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

THE wait is finally over for Anish Bhanwala. He had made several attempts in the past but had ultimately blanked. Despite his rich CV, those misses had planted seeds of doubt in his mind. Pressure is the word that he'd often mention while trying to make sense of his shortcomings. But Sunday was a welcome boost for the pistol shooter, who finally found his answers. Pressure was intense but Anish navigated the same to return with his maiden senior World Championship medal — a silver medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol.

It's no wonder that he was stoked with the outcome. "It is difficult to explain in words but the feeling is completely unreal. I have tried a lot of times before; my preparation has been good but I could not deliver when it came to the competition. This time I was better prepared in my training and things worked out in my favour," Anish said in the post-match interview. The 23-year-old, after promising rounds in the initial stages of the six-man final, found himself locked in a shoot-off with a rival shooter for the all-important medal at the latest edition of the marquee event in Cairo, Egypt. It was a do-or-die affair. The Indian could be seen breathing heavily. Both Anish and Emanuel Mueller from Germany, the other shooter battling for the medal, blinked twice in the first five-shot series of shoot-off. Anish, who was the second one to shoot, had missed out on a chance to secure the coveted medal.

It was a second chance for Mueller. But he erred twice again to hand the initiative again to the Indian. Anish, this time had a wry smile on his face before he set himself for his second attempt. Barely a few seconds later, Anish could afford a proper smile as he had shot four out of five to seal the medal, his first-ever at the senior level of the competition. Moments later, Anish won yet another shoot-off battle against Maksym Horodynets of Ukraine to change the colour of medal to silver. Clement Bessaguet of France, who captured the gold, was beyond Anish's reach. This was the moment Anish had longed for. This was where he had faltered on multiple occasions in the past. Not this time. Anish, who has elevated his game in recent times, finally reached the promised land.

"In 2018, I was putting up decent scores to win medals in the Commonwealth Games. But in the all-important events like the World Championships, I was unable to cope with pressure. I was not able to translate the same results that I was showing in the junior events. I was also lacking maturity I guess," Anish had told this daily after a fruitful Summer last year.

All the forces behind Anish had been waiting for this moment. Coach Harpreet Singh, who has been giving him lessons since the time Anish picked up the craft, was pleased as punch. "We had prepared for a day like this. In a competition like the World Championship, there's no room for even small mistakes. It is a tough competition. His hard world has paid off and I'm delighted." The coach revealed that the shooter from Karnal, Haryana had acquired a new grip not so long ago.

"In regards to his technique, it's nothing new. We have been working on that aspect for the last 10 years or so. Earlier, he was a kid, he was small. We had changed his grip just six months ago since his old grip had become tight. We were looking to set that and get him used to the new grip. We had also worked on his stance, whatever little gaps he had in his stance," the former Commonwealth Games medallist, who is also Anish's neighbour, said. After a relatively quiet start — he finished 11th, 13th and 18th in the opening three World Cups, Anish regained his form during the Asian Championships in August, where he captured silver. After his latest medal, he will now line up alongside some of the top-ranked shooters in the World Cup Final which is scheduled to be held at Doha, Qatar in December. With the weight of World Championships finally off his shoulders, the coach expects him to be better-prepared for another medal that is missing in his CV.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

City crush Liverpool to close in on Arsenal

AGENCIES @London

MANCHESTER City celebrated Pep Guardiola's 1,000th game in management with a statement 3-0 win over Liverpool to close to within four points of Premier League leaders Arsenal.

Erling Haaland shrugged off missing an early penalty to head in his 99th Premier League goal before Nico Gonzalez's deflected effort and a wonder strike from Jeremy Doku confirmed City's status as Arsenal's major title rivals.

Nottingham Forest beat relegation rivals Leeds 3-1 to secure the first victory under Sean Dyche. Dyche's side trailed in the 13th minute at home when Lukas Nmecha's low drive arrowed into the corner. But Forest equalised just two minutes later through Ibrahim Sangare's predatory finish from 10 yards. Morgan Gibbs-White and Elliot Anderson then scored in the second-half for Forest.

Man City's Jeremy Doku celebrates scoring the third goal on Sunday | AFP

Results: Villa **4-0** Bournemouth; Brentford **3-1** Newcastle; Crystal Palace **0-0** Brighton; Man City **3-0** Liverpool; Forest **3-1** Leeds.

Gujrathi bows out, Karthik advances

AGENCIES @Panjim

INDIAN Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi bowed out of the World Chess Cup after a 2.5-3.5 loss to Sam Shankland of United States in the second set of tie-break games of third round here on Sunday.

On what turned out to be a dramatic day, SL Narayanan also had to concede defeat against Yangyi Yu of China in the first set of tie-break games but V Karthik continued with his dream run and defeated Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania 1.5-0.5.

Karthik reached the fourth round which means there are five Indians left in the fray after the first three rounds.

The two favourites Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa, and P Harikrishna who shown sublime form here and world junior champion V Pranav, who has proved that he is the next big Indian star in the making, have already qualified by winning the games under classical format itself.

It will be a test of time for the five Indians in the last 32 stage in the event that started with 206 players. With top three slots at stake for the next Candidates' tournament, it seems that the battles will be even more interesting in the rounds to come. Meanwhile, Gujrathi became the third biggest casualty from Indian perspective in the tournament after the ouster of world champion D Gukesh who lost under classical games against Frederic Svane of Germany, and Aravindh Chithambaram who went down to Karthik as early as in round two.

For V Karthik, this is turning out to be the event of a lifetime as he has now got into the stage from where one more victory will push him to the pre-quarterfinals.

Indian Results (Round 3, Tiebreak)

GM Karthik Venkataraman **bt** GM Bogdan-Daniel Deac (ROU) 2.5-1.5

GM Narayanan SL **lost to** GM Yu Yangyi (CHN) 1.5:2.5

GM Vidit Gujrathi **lost to** GM Sam Shankland (USA) 2.5:3.5

GM Karthik Venkataraman during round 3 tiebreaker | ETERI KUBLASHVILI/FIDE

EXPRESS READ

Rathika loses final in NSW Open squash

SYDNEY: India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan lost a fiercely-contested final to Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen over five games — 11-8, 11-3, 4-11, 10-12, 12-10 — in the NSW Open squash tournament. Rathika had beaten New Zealand's Emma Merson in the semifinal.

Bhoge stuns Koreans, Anshika impresses

DHAKA: Unheralded Yashdeep Bhoge upstaged the fancied Koreans to top the men's recurve qualification, while rookie Anshika Kumari also produced a surprise top-five finish in the women's section as the Asian Archery Championships got underway, here on Sunday.

ATP Finals: Alcaraz triumphs over De Minaur

TURIN (ITALY): Carlos Alcaraz got his bid to win a first ATP Finals crown and claim the year-end No. 1 ranking off to a positive start on Sunday with a straight-set victory over Alex de Minaur. Alcaraz recovered from a topsy-turvy opening set to triumph 7-6 (5), 6-2 over the seventh-seeded De Minaur in the opening match.

SA 'A' batters tame India 'A' Test bowlers to help team win

AGENCIES @Bengaluru

SOUTH Africa A's top-order batters ran roughshod over a set of regular Test bowlers in the ranks of India A, etching a memorable five-wicket win on the fourth day of the second four-day match here on Sunday. Chasing an improbable-looking 417, South Africa, overnight 25 for no loss, never looked daunted by the size of target, and if anything, were determined to overhaul it.

Jordan Hermann (91, 123 balls), Lesego Senokwane (77, 174b), Temba Bavuma (59, 101b), Zubayr Hamza (77, 88b) and Connor Esterhuizen (52 n.o, 54b) produced glittering fifties to power SA A to 417/5 with three overs remaining as the match went past the regular 5pm close to complete the 90-over quota. It was the highest run chase in the 'A' matches. Perhaps, a no-going-back situation of needing to score 392 runs on the day to avoid a 0-2 series defeat, spurred the combative instincts inside the South African batters, and it reflected in the innings of Hermann and Senokwane.

BRIEF SCORES
India A 255 & 382/7d **lost to** SA A 221 & 417/5 (Hermann 91, Senokwane 77, Hamza 77, Bavuma 59; Prasidh 2/49).

The openers added 156 runs off 258 balls to give South Africa an ideal launching pad. At 139 for no loss at lunch, it was clear that the BCCI Centre of Excellence pitch that offered plenty of assistance to pacers had lost its sting after some heavy rolling.

ARCHERY POLLS

Sachdeva elected as Executive Member of WAA

ENS/AGENCIES @New Delhi

AS many as six officials from India were elected to prominent committees of World Archery Asia (WAA) at its 2025 Congress on Saturday. Virendra Sachdeva, secretary general of Archery Association of India, was elected as the Executive Member of WAA. Sachdeva secured the highest number of votes in a competitive Executive Board election where 10 candidates contested for five positions.

"This is a profound moment for Indian archery. Beyond the individual honours, what truly inspires me is the collective spirit that made this possible. Every candidate, who participated and represented India, brought dedication, passion, and commitment to this process. It is this unified effort that has earned India this recognition on the world stage (...)," Sachdeva said. **Newly-elected WAA members from India and their respective committees:** Virendra Sachdeva – Executive Board; Joris Paulose – Constitution & Rules Committee; Paia B. War Nongbri – Technical Committee; Rupesh Kar – Judges Committee; Krishna Bahadur Gurung – Sports Science & Medical Committee; Lokesh Chand – Coaches Committee.

RANJI ROUND-UP

Karnataka batters squander advantage to post 313

ENS/AGENCIES @Pune

KARNATAKA squandered advantage as three of their tailenders got out on ducks against Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy. Resuming on 257/5, they were bundled out for 313 with Jalaj Saxena and Mukesh Choudhary walking away with four and three wickets. Maharashtra were 200/6.

Kerala gain 1st innings lead

MANGALAPURAM: Kerala finally managed to gain their first innings lead this season as they posted 233 in reply to Saurashtra's 160. Rohan Kunnummal (80) and Baba Aparajith (69) played a key role. Saurashtra were 47/1 in their second essay.

J&K's Paras Dogra celebrating his century against Delhi | SAYANTAN GHOSH

SELECT SCORES

Group A: At Visakhapatnam: TN 182 & 102/3 in 29 ovs (B Sachin 51) vs Andhra 177 in 49 ovs (Shaik Rasheed 87 n.o; Sandeep Warrier 4/53); At Nagpur: Vidarbha 286 in 118.4 ovs (Dhruv Shorey 144; Sambit Baral 3/69) vs Odisha 122/6 in 58.2 ovs (Subhranshu Senapati 41; Gaurav Farde 2/20).
Group B: At Pune: Karnataka 313 in 111 ovs (Shreyas Gopal 71; Jalaj Saxena 4/94, Mukesh Choudhary 3/66) vs Maharashtra 200/6 in 66 ovs (Prithvi Shaw 71; Shreyas Gopal 4/46); At Mangalapuram: Saurashtra 160 & 47/1 in 17 ovs vs Saurashtra 233 in 74.5 ovs (Rohan Kunnummal 80, Baba Aparajith 69; Jaydev Unadkat 4/42).
Group D: At New Delhi: Delhi 211 & 7/0 in 2 ovs vs Jammu & Kashmir 310 in 91.2 ovs (Paras Dogra 106, Abdul Samad 85; Simarjeet Singh 6/52); At Hyderabad: Hyderabad 364 in 104.1 ovs (Rahul Radesh 129; Ashok Sharma 3/89, Rahul Chahar 3/96) vs Rajasthan 221/5 in 72 ovs (Kunal Singh Rathore 64 batting; Anikethreddy 2/50, Tanay Thyagarajan 2/58).

Rajasthan fight back

HYDERABAD: Rajasthan were 221/5 in reply to hosts Hyderabad's first innings total of 364. Kunal Singh Rathore (64) and Kukna Ajay Singh (42) added unbeaten 104 runs for the sixth wicket to help team recover.

Warrier gives TN lead

VISAKHAPATNAM: Sandeep Warrier claimed four wickets while Trilok Nag and Sonu Yadav picked two apiece to bowl out Andhra for 177 and give Tamil Nadu a crucial five-run first innings lead.

Odisha in tricky spot

NAGPUR: Sambit Baral bagged three wickets as Odisha wrapped up Vidarbha's innings for 286. The defending champs added only 52 runs to their overnight total, losing five wickets. Odisha were 122/6 when the bails were drawn.

J&K edge ahead of Delhi

NEW DELHI: Skipper Paras Dogra (106) and Abdul Samad (85) gave visitors Jammu and Kashmir a vital 99-run lead in the first innings against hosts Delhi, who were 7/0 in their second innings and trailing by another 92 runs. After bowling Delhi out for 211, Jammu and Kashmir were left struggling at 31/3 at the close on play but a 141-run stand between Dogra and Samad provided them with a strong recovery.

CHOUDHARY HITS RECORD EIGHT STRAIGHT SIXES

SURAT: Meghalaya's Akash Kumar Choudhary on Sunday became the first player to hit eight sixes in a row in First-Class cricket while also recording the fastest half-century in the format, off only 11 deliveries, during a Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh here. Batting at No 8, 25-year-old Choudhary achieved the stunning feat on the second day of the match at the CK Pithawala Ground here. He remained not out on 50 off 14 balls, helping Meghalaya declared their first innings at a mammoth 628 for 6.

In its first decade, IIM Nagpur balances expansion with reflection by testing what growth, community, and management education can look like outside the metros

264	₹69.57	₹18.07	₹17.03	YOY GROWTH		₹31.73	89
STUDENTS	LAKH	LAKH	LAKH	10.93%	6.48%	LAKH	NEW RECRUITERS
Batch size	Highest CTC	Average CTC	Median CTC	Average CTC	Median CTC	Top 10% average package	

TOP RECRUITERS: MICROSOFT, AMAZON, ADANI, BNP PARIBAS, DELOITTE, TATA POWER

IIM NAGPUR AT 10

TRACING THE RISE OF A YOUNG INSTITUTE FINDING ITS OWN RHYTHM

8th International Yoga Day at IIM Nagpur

Iconic events & traditions

Academic & industry engagement
Flagship platforms like Tangerine Trails bring together industry leaders, alumni, and students for discussions on strategy and business trends. Utkarsh, the HR conclave, centres on workforce innovation and talent management, while the Media Conclave examines shifts in digital communication. Illume, the Industry–Institute Interaction Summit, strengthens corporate partnerships by linking academic insight with real-world problem statements.

Alumni connect
Kutumbh, the annual alumni meet, is a lively gathering that features reunions, cultural showcases, sports activities, and meaningful exchanges between alumni and current students, helping maintain long-term engagement with the institute.

Cultural celebrations
Zero Mile Fest captures the creative spirit of the campus through music, dance, drama, and art, drawing participation from institutes across India. Section Wars adds an element of friendly rivalry, as student sections compete through performances and creative expression.

Sports and competition
Rhapsody, the sports fest, brings high energy to campus life, with students competing across disciplines and showcasing camaraderie, discipline, and grit.

Campus traditions
Beyond formal events, traditions like midnight jam sessions at the amphitheatre, hostel courtyard birthday celebrations, and Lantern Night on graduation eve create an emotional and cultural continuity. These experiences shape a campus environment where academic rigour coexists with creativity, community, and lifelong friendships.

IIM Nagpur's vision: nurturing globally competent yet locally grounded leaders

IIM Nagpur Director Prof Bhimaraya Metri reflects on the institute's evolving focus — from data and industry linkages to sustainability and Indian knowledge systems — as it grows across campuses and contexts

Blending traditional wisdom with modern frameworks, we prepare globally competent, locally grounded leaders.

Prof Bhimaraya Metri
Director, IIM Nagpur

What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIM Nagpur apart from other IIMs?
IIM Nagpur has built a distinctive identity around innovation, inclusivity and sustainability. Its GRIHA-rated green campus in MIHAN-SEZ features a 2 MW solar plant and eco-conscious infrastructure. In the past five years, the institute recorded a 40.82% CAGR and ranks among India's top B-schools for executive education, delivering programmes for Tata AutoComp, Adani, IOCL, WCL, SAIL, MOIL, Novo Nordisk and Lupin. In NIRF 2025, it is ranked 25th in management within a decade of inception. For 2023–25, placements were 100%, with a highest package of Rs 69.57 LPA, four international offers, and recruiters such as Deloitte, BNY, Accenture, Amazon, ICICI Bank, Aditya Birla Group and Infosys. Global exposure includes placements and internships in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

What is the institute doing to strengthen industry partnerships and improve student employability?
IIM Nagpur has built strong partnerships with corporates and public organisations for executive education, consulting projects and leadership programmes, ensuring continuous knowledge exchange. Its Professional Management Practice (PMP) course instils leadership early through psychometric tools, action-learning projects and mentorship from senior executives. The Rural Immersion Bharat Darshan Programme builds empathy, problem-solving and understanding of India's socio-economic fabric. Employability is reinforced via leadership sessions, placement training workshops, mock interviews and certifications in emerging domains. A dedicated Case Centre develops and publishes cases on real business challenges, often with industry partners. The curriculum is continuously updated with recruiter input in digital transformation, sustainability, AI and ESG. Globally, tie-ups with Sunway University (Malaysia), Skyline University College (UAE) and a dual degree with the University of Lille enable exchanges, dual degrees and immersion, preparing students for long-term success.

Interaction during IIM Nagpur's Collaborative Research Symposium, January 2024

How is IIM Nagpur supporting the holistic development of students beyond academics?
Students undertake social immersion with NGOs, internships with district administrations, and entrepreneurial projects supported by InFED (IIM Nagpur Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development), which mentors start-ups. A student-driven ecosystem includes clubs in finance, marketing, operations, consulting, entrepreneurship and analytics, plus committees in sports, culture, yoga and social responsibility. These run case competitions, workshops and peer-learning sessions that sharpen skills and collaboration. Flagship events and fests such as management conclaves, cultural festivals and inter-college competitions create platforms to showcase talent and engage with industry leaders. Sports facilities for cricket, football, basketball, badminton and athletics promote physical well-being; students compete in intra- and inter-IIM tournaments.

How does IIM Nagpur approach the emerging discipline of Indian Knowledge Systems vis-à-vis management practice?
The institute embeds Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the curriculum, research, and leadership development, exposing students to India's intellectual heritage alongside global management practices. Courses and projects explore Indian business history, indigenous governance models, and community-driven sustainability, enabling culturally contextual decision-making. In line with NEP, we offer Indian Ethos & Business Ethics, Change Masters of India, Management: Perspectives from History & Scriptures, Science of Happiness, Life Management, and Corporate Governance, CSR & Sustainability. To strengthen this agenda, IIM Nagpur partners with institutions such as Sri Sri University and collaborates with other academic bodies for joint programmes, research, and case development.

Where do you see India in 2050 and what role do you see IIM Nagpur playing towards the same vision?
By 2050, the nation is expected to be a global hub for digital innovation, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship, with management talent playing a central role in this transformation. In this context, IIM Nagpur envisions itself as a catalyst by nurturing globally competent yet locally grounded leaders who balance innovation with inclusivity. Through its incubation arm InFED, which supports start-ups in agritech, fintech, and healthcare, the institute is scaling entrepreneurship and fostering new-age enterprises. Its growing executive education portfolio is preparing industry leaders for economies shaped by AI, sustainability, and digital transformation. By embedding Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into management education, the institute equips future leaders with ethical, sustainable, and culturally contextual frameworks. Expansion plans for Phases 2 and 3 of the Nagpur campus and a satellite campus in Pune will deepen collaboration with industry, start-ups, and academia. By aligning its programmes with India's long-term developmental priorities, the institute is positioning itself as a vital contributor to shaping leaders, enterprises, and knowledge ecosystems that will power the nation's rise as a global powerhouse.

ICSSR Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 at IIM Nagpur, February 2025

Initiatives, Ventures, and Collaborations

THE institute's industry-oriented curriculum is regularly updated with inputs from recruiters and domain experts to reflect current business priorities in digital transformation, sustainability, AI, and ESG. Internationally, IIM Nagpur works with institutions such as the University of Lille (France), Sunway University (Malaysia), and Skyline University College (UAE) to facilitate student exchanges, dual-degree options, and global immersion programmes that give students exposure to diverse business contexts and cross-border careers.

BUSINESS INCUBATOR AND PARTNERSHIPS

At the institutional level, InFED, IIM Nagpur's business incubator, anchors the institute's entrepreneurial initiatives. It currently supports around 50 active start-ups, which together have generated over 5,000 jobs and raised about Rs 32 crore. Through internships, live projects, and credit-linked courses, students engage directly with these ventures, exploring innovation in areas such as sustainability, healthcare, and rural development. IIM Nagpur has also collaborated with TimesPro, a higher education technology platform, to offer online programmes for working professionals in fields including management, healthcare, leadership, human resources, and technology. These initiatives help learners build relevant skills and adapt to changing industry needs.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

InFED and the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) organise several initiatives that strengthen IIM Nagpur's start-up and innovation ecosystem. The Wardhini Cluster Live Project enabled students to work on local entrepreneurial challenges through hands-on learning. Events such as the Ideation Bootcamp (November 2024), Quizzare 2.0 (October 2024), and Entree-preneurship 7.0 encouraged creative problem-solving and strategic thinking. Academic engagement remained active through discussions like From Data Insights to Tangible Business Outcomes, featuring practitioners from industry. The Maha Hackathon Challenge 1.0, held with Bhashini and the Government of Maharashtra, explored applications of language technology for social benefit.

STUDENT VOICES

ANJALI BIRLA
"Joining IIM Nagpur over other IIMs, I was unsure how I would adapt as the youngest in my batch. But a culture of strong faculty support, peer encouragement, and leadership talks soon built my confidence through academics and activities. For me, IIM Nagpur is not just an institute; it's a community that has shaped my growth with learning and reassurance."

PRADOSH URMALIYA
"I had come to this campus quite nervous but what I love most is how everyone's got your back and that seniors actually take the time to guide you. The professors are super approachable as well."

RISHIKESH TIWARI
"The networking opportunities, alumni, and industry connections are amazing. You're constantly picking up real-world lessons way beyond the classroom. I realise my best learnings have come from fun team contests and games on campus."

PIYALI MANNA
"My favourite times are during fests and club events, when the whole campus just comes alive. It honestly feels like one big family and makes living away from home easier."

What's fun on campus?

BEST SPOT TO HANG OUT: Amphitheatre and KitKat Break Zone

BEST TIME TO BE ON CAMPUS: Night, when it's the liveliest

THE CLUB OR SOCIETY EVERYONE FEARS: Placement Committee

BEST DISH IN THE CANTEEN: Piping hot samosas!

MOST INSTAGRAM-WORTHY SPOT: Sunset and pink skies from the balcony

MOST TYPICAL IIM NAGPUR LINGO AND MEANING: CP (class participation), used for "showing up" even at events

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

New show

Sesame Street, an American educational television series, debuted in 1969 on the National Educational Television network

CREATOR

The show was the brainchild of Joan Ganz Cooney, a former documentary producer. His goal was to create a programme that was both entertaining and educational

AMERICAN ICONS

Designed by Jim Henson, the Muppets – Elmo, Big Bird, the inseparable Bert and Ernie, and Cookie Monster – became American icons

LEGACY

More than 30 countries have launched productions of *Sesame Street* since 1972, starting with *Vila Sésamo* in Brazil

Happenings around ooru
PG 2

TEAM *CE*

NAMMA Shakti

The 35th chapter of the Devi Awards, hosted by the *TNIE* Group, illuminated the cityscape with stories of grace, grit and glory

STRENGTH, creativity and compassion took centre stage at *The New Indian Express*' (*TNIE*) Devi Awards, which honoured 11 exceptional women across various fields. A heartfelt celebration of women who rise, shine and inspire, the event at ITC Gardenia, on Residency Road, also saw the who's who of Bengaluru – Princess Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar, Padmashri awardee and three-time Grammy winner Ricky Kej, 2024 Devi awardee and textile revivalist Pavithra Muddaiah, luxury consultant Manjusha Maheshwari, lawyer and Artffaire founder Aashita Sood Agarwal and mother of cricketer Mayank Agarawal, Savita Agarwal, Brahmins' Coffee Bar owner Radhakrishna Adiga, beauty queen Veena Jain and so on, energising the already lit up Mysore Hall with applause, awe and admiration.

Starting on a reflective note, Neha, director of Event Xpress and host of the *Expressions* podcast, captured the essence of the night with her words. "Tonight, we don't just celebrate women's achievements, we celebrate their spirit," she said, reminding the audience that true strength often wears many hats, it listens, laughs and lifts others along the way. "Through my own journey, especially the many conversations I have had with remarkable women on my podcast, I have seen firsthand that strength doesn't always roar. I have learnt that true strength is driven yet kind, bold yet thoughtful and always deeply human. A woman's strength does not come from being unbreakable but knowing how to rebuild with grace, and that multitasking should be listed as a superpower in every woman's resume," she said.

Her warm, relatable words resonated deeply with the audience, setting the tone for an inspiring and heartwarming evening. Deeply moved by the stories of courage and compassion shared on stage, Princess Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar expressed admiration for both the awardees and the initiative itself. "This has been a remarkable evening, and I'm happy to see tribute being paid to all these women who have done wonderful things and contributed so much to society," she said, commending *TNIE* for creating such a meaningful platform. Wadiyar, in particular, highlighted Devi awardee Deepthi Bopaiah's work in supporting people with special needs to participate in the Paralympics.

"I was impressed by what she's doing," she added, noting that initiatives like the Devi Awards play a vital role in recognising those who are truly transforming lives and enriching society. Getting to know the work, commitment and drive that these women have, which might have gone unnoticed otherwise, was indeed the highlight for lawyer and Artffaire founder Aashita Sood Agarwal, who was present along with her mother-in-law, Savita Agarwal. "This is a wonderful initiative by *TNIE* that recognises the hard work that women entrepreneurs and pioneers are doing in their respective fields. It also helps people who may not have known about the work being done to become aware of it. I'm thrilled to have discovered some new names, and will follow their work to explore how we can contribute. Because it just takes knowing someone else's story and the work they do to see how you can also add value and meaning to society," said Sood.

While the evening undoubtedly belonged to the women, the presence of men underscored an important message: gender equality isn't just a woman's issue – it's a shared responsibility. Agreed, international artist Raghava KK, adding, "Bengalureans finally have role models from diverse backgrounds. There are all these traditional ideas of what a woman can succeed in, and today, the Devis proved us all wrong. They have shown that Bengaluru women rock. I loved the fact that Nooraine (Fazal) talked about her excellence in sports and education – I wouldn't have expected the principal of a school to be playing football, cricket and being an ace golfer; I loved seeing young entrepreneurs like Sahar (Mansoor), whom I've known since she was a kid, coming in to do cartooning with me."

Attendees networked over cocktails and a gala dinner, which was abuzz with a renewed sense of purpose with women (and men) empowered by the knowledge that they, too, can be part of this ongoing legacy of change. "I'm absolutely stumped and fascinated to learn about such incredible women. I happen to personally know a few of them, but some were beyond my radar. When there are women entrepreneurs, there's always a balance of power and empathy leadership – an iron fist and a golden heart, which I saw plenty of at the 2025 Devi Awards," said Sounak Sen Barat, fashion designer.

Neha, director, Event Xpress

Aashita Sood Agarwal, founder, Artffaire

Eminent guest Princess Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar at the 2025 Devi Awards

Chief guest Kris Gopalakrishnan

Radhakrishna Adiga, founder, Brahmins' Coffee Bar, greets *TNIE* CMD Manoj Kumar Sonthalia

Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, Chairman and Managing Director, *TNIE*, with wife Kalpana Sonthalia and daughter Neha

MADE FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!

Since its inception in New Delhi, in 2014, the Devi Awards have travelled across the country, honouring over 416 women achievers in its last 34 editions. Following the same mission, the latest chapter in Bengaluru celebrated the achievements of women, with stories that deserved to be told.

Lakshmi Menon, director & CEO, *TNIE*

Santwana Bhattacharya, Editor, *TNIE* Group

Kris Gopalakrishnan in conversation with Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, *TNIE*. Also seen, Vineet Verma, director, Brigade Hospitality

Veena Jain, celebrated beauty queen

Devi awardee Shraddha Srinath with proud father Colonel S Srinath

Behind the Screen, Beyond the Stadium

MAHIMA NAGARAJU & ANJALI RAM

WITH the nation still buzzing with excitement about the Indian women's cricket team's thrilling world cup victory last week, a wave of enthusiastic applause spread through the audience as former player from Karnataka, Veda Krishnamurthy, took the stage wearing a sleek black blazer, pants, and the same confidence she's known for as a batswoman.

When asked to draw back the curtains and give the audience a peek into team India's dressing room, the player, whose voice added commentary to the recent World Cup matches, said, "The team is exactly how you saw them after the victory – humble and down to earth. The tribute that they did later on with the victory lap and taking the World Cup to all the former cricketers; that shows the character of the team."

She also noted that this moment could be a turning point in Indian women's cricket and a fitting answer to naysayers. "There were a lot of people trolling, even during the World Cup, saying that women belong in the kitchen and that cricket shouldn't be played by women. I think the answer has been given and hopefully, from here onwards, nobody will say that cricket is a sport only for men. It's everyone's game and women are equally good at it."

Behind a successful woman...

Amidst the applause that rose as actor Shraddha Srinath spoke when she walked in as one of the Devi awardees, there was one person quietly capturing this moment on his phone – her father, Colonel S Srinath.

"I am so proud," he paused for a minute reflecting on her win later and continued, "She has been brought up without any gender bias, she's not dependent on anybody. In fact, both my daughters are independent. I have given them the entire leeway, all the liberties, so they have chosen their paths, informed us what they want to do, and my wife and I are there to give our full support. But whatever she is today, is all because of her hard work."

As her father reminisced with pride, Shraddha's winning words reflected what all women in the forefront put forward – a sense of collective will to bring good. "I realise there are so many things we don't know since we are so caught up in our lives," she said, adding with a smile, "It's an honour to be here, standing on the same stage as all of you."

For her, the medium, whether film, web or theatre, matters less than the art of performance itself.

"It's all about storytelling," Shraddha remarked on her recent web series – a milestone in her 10-year journey, adding, "This was my first web series as the female protagonist, as a face of the show. Because the show did really well, there was a certain sense of credibility that I could pull off a show of my own and attract new audiences. So I do give myself a pat on my back once in a while."

Veda Krishnamurthy speaks upon receiving the Devi Award

BREAKING CEILINGS, BUILDING STORIES

(From left) Devi awardees Deepthi Bopaiah, Anita Nair, Pragati Mathur, Hema Ravichandar, Veda Krishnamurthy, Mayura Balasubramanian, Sahar Mansoor, Nooraine Fazal and Divya Raghavendra Rao

Deepthi Bopaiah, sports administrator

What has working with people with disabilities taught you?

I think our biggest learning has been that we need to change the language and narratives used to address people with disabilities. We must remember that when we talk about disability, we might think that this might never happen to us. Any planning that we do has to be done with the mindset of 'what if this happens' and not 'when it happens'.

Anita Nair, author

How is reading going to compete with scrolling in the new world?

This is a question that keeps popping up every time. I think after a point, we are going to be tired of scrolling. I believe that writing changes with the times that we live in, and it is going to have to change to speak to newer generations.

Pragati Mathur, textile artist

Having moved on from cloth, we have noticed your work in metal and other materials. Could you elaborate on that?

I started out weaving sarees, unstructured garments and shawls. I wove what I'm wearing now, too. I have always innovated and I'm now known as an experimental artist and weaver. I weave with just about anything I can lay my hands on.

Hema Ravichandar, management professional

What's the one piece of advice from your former boss, Kris Gopalakrishnan, that has lasted you well?

When I went into work every day in my executive career, Kris embodied not just the technology that he represented, but also the empathy he talked about. For me, it's very special getting this award in Bengaluru, in front of Kris and my husband, who was my first and has been my lifelong mentor, and my two children, who never let me fall into the guilt trap, even when I was straddling both my career and home.

Mayura Balasubramanian, founder, Craftizen Foundation

What's the one craft that you're really proud to have either revived or to have expanded?

One of our particularly special projects was in Cheriyal, Telangana. There were only seven master artisan families left practicing the craft. We set up a livelihood center in the village and trained 30 women. Today, we are reviving this very rare craft with the women earning a monthly income by creating these beautiful products entirely from tamarind seed and sawdust.

Sahar Mansoor, founder, Bare Necessities

What does a zero-waste life mean? How do you live such a life?

For me, and all of us at Bare Necessities, it is about reimagining how we live from this disposable culture to one that is more circular and sustainable. The idea of a zero-waste lifestyle is all about how we can reduce our footprint to as little as possible and how we can all live a little lighter on our planet.

Nooraine Fazal, founding CEO & managing trustee, Inventure Academy

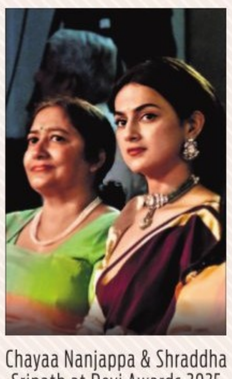
Your academy has a lot of focus on sports. Could you talk about that?

Sports, for me, was like oxygen. I was always in the last row in class and liked to maximise learning outside the classroom. What I learned from sports was to set goals, work towards them, handle success and failure in life and more. I think every person should be out there playing some sport.

Divya Rao, co-founder, The Rameshwaram Cafe

How did an IIM Ahmedabad graduate get into the food business?

It was actually my husband, Raghav, who pulled me into this business. Since then, everything has been for the good. Despite being in the food business, we're a traditional family and cook at home every day (laughs)


Chayaa Nanjappa & Shraddha Srinath at Devi Awards 2025

Chayaa Nanjappa, founder, Nectar Fresh

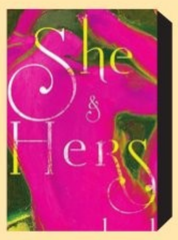
In your two-decade journey in the field, did you ever imagine that you would see Nectar Fresh stocked everywhere?

I could have never imagined that. Now we're in stores everywhere and replacing foreign brands in India's high-end market. We also have our products in Walmart, both in the United States and Canada. Doing this, especially with a team that is undereducated, is a big moment for us because women from rural India find it even harder to get recognition.

(Compiled by Aakansha Munshi and Reshma Syed)

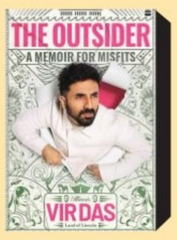
PICS: VINOD KUMAR T, SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA, NAGARAJA GADEKAL, KEVIN NASHON

BOOK NOOK



She & Hers
by Manav Kaul

She & Hers is not just a story of queer love, it's also a multidimensional lens under which each character, though flawed, seeks a life of fulfilment and understanding.

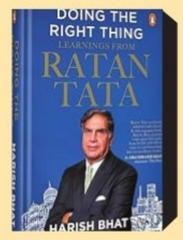


The Outsider: A Memoir for Misfits
by Vir Das

In *The Outsider: A Memoir for Misfits*, comedian and actor Vir Das is here to take you through his world tour of heartbreak, failure, and grit, with chaotic detours through Bollywood and Hollywood – all while being a professional outsider.

A Guardian and A Thief
by Megha Majumdar

The book is set in a near-future Kolkata, India, ravaged by climate change and food scarcity, in which two families seeking to protect their children must battle each other. A piercing and propulsive tour de force.



Doing the Right Thing: Learnings from Ratan Tata
by Harish Bhat

In this unique and engaging book, Harish Bhat explores what lay at the heart of Ratan Tata's extraordinary leadership.

WHO LET THE BOTS OUT?

A dog bot gives its paw to a visitor at the launch of India's first Startup Park, kicking off a 30-day festival in Madiwala | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

SWEET DOSAE

Contributed by **Rehana,** Bengaluru

INGREDIENTS
- **Dosae batter**
- **Ghee:** 1 tbsp
- **Egg:** 2
- **Sugar:** 1/4 cup
- **Grated Coconut:** 1/4 cup

METHOD
- Heat a non-stick pan and sprinkle ghee on it.
- Crack eggs, add sugar and grated coconut into the batter and mix well.
- Pour a ladle of dosae batter, spreading thin. Cook until edges turn golden.

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Flavour Fest
Experience a food festival which showcases the authentic flavours of traditional Bengali cuisine. Curated by chef Anand, the festival features a heritage-inspired menu with classic dishes ranging from subtly spiced curries to desserts.

WHEN: November 10, 1pm onwards
WHERE: Holiday Inn Bengaluru Racecourse Road, Gandhi Nagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Mudra Magic
Immerse yourself in Tat-Tvam Asi, a meditative dance production that explores surrender as a path to self-realisation through the lives of Andal, Radha, and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Blending classical movement, music and poetic text, dancer **Neha Mondal** will guide audiences on a contemplative journey into the divine within.

WHEN: November 10, 7pm onwards
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Memory Chain
How about a cute date with your better half – making keepsakes that stick together? Take part in this hands-on session where you will learn basic clay moulding and decorating techniques to make two matching custom keychains.

WHEN: November 10, 2pm onwards
WHERE: Thirdspace Art Cafe & Community, Adugodi
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Monday Groove
Kick-start your Monday at this event featuring DJ Guru with a dynamic blend of Bollywood, UK Punjabi and commercial music that will keep you dancing nonstop. The evening promises bold beats and unforgettable moments.

WHEN: November 10, 8pm onwards
WHERE: Ginza, Koramangala
DETAILS: highape.com

Unplug and Relax
Are you feeling overwhelmed with constant notification beeps? Join this one-hour mindful art therapy to reset, recharge and reconnect with your connectivity. No experience needed, just bring your curiosity to the table!

WHEN: November 10, 12pm
WHERE: Patron of Fine Arts, Kodihalli
CALL: 89701 11841

Mystery Comedy
Experience a curated stand-up comedy event featuring top comedians from across India. The lineup remains a surprise, adding an element of anticipation to an evening of laughter and entertainment.

WHEN: November 10, 10pm onwards
WHERE: The Coffee Theatre, Indiranagar,
DETAILS: district.in

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My dog is showing post-Deepavali stress symptoms. Even the slightest noise has her on edge. Are any stress medicines advisable?

Keep windows shut, curtains drawn, and play soothing music or white noise to reduce startling sounds. Try to remain calm and composed – excessive comforting during anxious moments can unintentionally heighten her fear. In cases of severe anxiety, short-term medications such as Alprazolam or Trazodone may be useful, but only under a veterinarian's supervision and correct dosage. You can also consider natural calming options like Adaptil diffusers or tryptophan supplements to aid her recovery. Always consult your veterinarian before starting any treatment.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT
HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?
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FITBIT

FLOW THROUGH THE SPINE: ALL ABOUT FINDING STRENGTH IN FLEXIBILITY

True strength comes from the body's central axis, the channel of movement, and the foundation of balance. Today, let's focus on the suppleness of the spine through a sequence of forward and backward bends.

WARMING UP: AWAKENING THE BODY AND BREATH

- **Forward Bend with Chest Opening:** Standing with feet hip-width apart, interlace your fingers behind your back, keep your knees soft, and hinge forward from the hips. As the chest drops, lift your arms toward the ceiling, keeping your chin up and chest open. Repeat this for five deep breaths, inhaling as you rise, exhaling as you fold.
- **Side Lunge:** A beautiful transition that activates the hips and hamstrings. With your feet wider than hip-width, bend one knee and lean into the side, keeping your opposite leg extended. Move fluidly from side to side, feeling the inner thighs stretch and the spine stay tall.

Now that the body is warm, we deepen our practice with a blend of strength, flexibility, and breath.

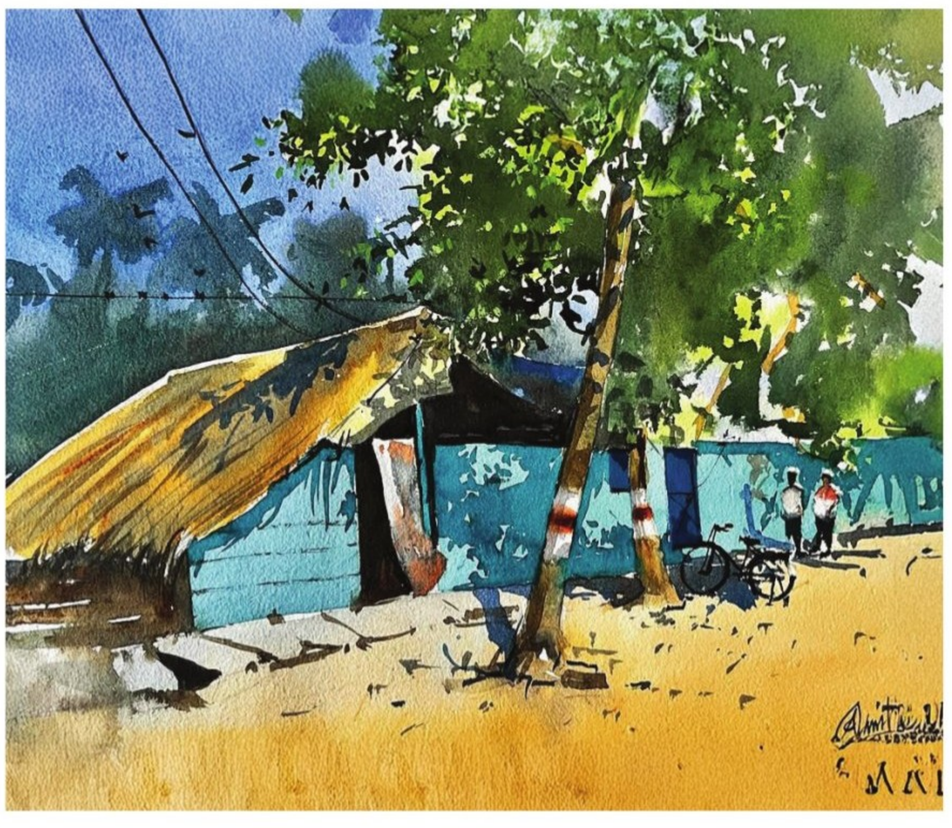
- **Scorpion Leg in Mountain Pose:** Starting in Mountain Pose, press your palms firmly into the mat and lift one leg high, opening the hip and bending the knee to bring the heel closer to the glutes. Hold for five breaths before switching sides.
- **Plank to Eight-Point Pose:** From a high plank, align your shoulders over your wrists and maintain a straight line from head to heels. Engage the core and breathe deeply for five counts. Then, lower your knees, chest, and chin to the ground, keeping your hips slightly lifted.
- **Lord of the Dance Pose:** This asana embodies grace, balance, and openness. Hold your right ankle with your right hand and extend your left arm upward. Push your lifted knee back, opening the chest and heart.
- **Bow Pose Progression:** Lying on your stomach, grab your ankles and lift your chest and thighs off the ground. From here, rock gently from side to side – right, center, left – feeling the front of your body open.
- **Pigeon Pose:** One leg bent in front and the other extended behind. Square your hips, lengthen your spine, and lift your chest.

COOLING DOWN: RETURNING TO STILLNESS

- **Child's Pose:** Sink your hips to your heels, stretch your arms forward, and rest your forehead on the mat.
- **Savasana:** Lie down, arms by your sides, palms facing upward.

By Indira Chavva, yoga expert, cult—a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER



TRANQUIL HAMLET
Aurangabad artist Amit Ambhore's watercolour painting beautifully captures a serene village scene, where nature's calm surrounds a straw-roofed hut

TO THE HEART'S DZIRE

With its top-notch ride quality, supreme fuel efficiency and all-round refinement, buying the new Maruti Suzuki Dzire is now a no-brainer

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

IN an ocean of SUVs, one sedan consistently rises to the top as the highest-selling car in India. This is the story of the humble Maruti Suzuki Dzire. After using it for a month for a long-drive review, I became very clear about why this car rules the charts.

The category of sub-4 metre sedans is small, with only the Dzire, Hyundai Aura, Honda Amaze and Tata Tigor (notchback) in it. Even if we add up the sales numbers of all its competitors, the Dzire wins hands down. That has been its legacy.

But the latest generation Dzire stands out not just because of that legacy, but also for its no-nonsense packaging.

While earlier generations looked quite similar to their Swift hatchback counterparts, the latest one has its own identity. The front design is attractive and gives a wide-car feel. The cabin, though in light beige that demands extra care to keep clean, is comfortable and focused on utility value.

The daily use

As this is not a first-look review, let's focus on the real-world experience. The top variant of the Dzire with the AMT gearbox was an extremely cool companion: easy to get in and out of, easy to manoeuvre, and easy to park.

It's also easy on the pocket, thanks to its excellent fuel efficiency.

The seats are well cushioned and supportive. The steering and controls are very smooth, making long drives effortless. Visibility is excellent because of the large glass area and optimal seating position. The 360-degree camera is a great addition. The 9-inch touchscreen and wireless charging pad work well too.

The 5-speed AMT transmission makes daily driving simple. It's not as quick to respond as the manual version, but during my month-long use, that difference only crossed my mind once or twice.

The lack of a centre armrest for the driver is a notable omission. The 1.2-litre, 82hp Z-series engine is tuned for maximum fuel efficiency, meaning it's not for those who want to rocket down the road. At low revs, there's a slight lack of power, but pressing the pedal harder solves it.

The ride quality is impressive: stable, precise and composed. It handles potholes and bumps without unsettling the passengers.

The light-coloured upholstery keeps the cabin bright, complemented by the small sunroof. Instead of asking Maruti for darker upholstery, why not just take care to keep the bright one clean?

The trump card

Real-world fuel efficiency is the Dzire's biggest highlight. During my use, it returned 13–14 kmpl in the city and up to 18-20 kmpl on highways. These are numbers that rival diesel cars. There are CNG variants too. While advertisements claim even higher test figures, these real-world results are impressive for a mass-market sedan. The Maruti Suzuki Dzire comes with over 15 top-of-the-line safety features, including six airbags, three-point ELR seatbelts, ESP with Hill Hold Assist, ABS with EBD, and ISOFIX child seat anchorages as standard across all variants. The all-new Dzire has a five-star GNCAP rating, making it even more appealing.

To sum up

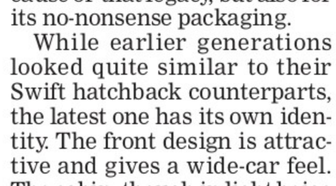
The new Dzire is a well-refined car with top-notch ride quality and fuel efficiency. With prices ranging from ₹6.26 lakh to ₹9.31 lakh, it's an ideal choice for anyone looking for a sub-₹10 lakh car. Buying the Dzire is a no-brainer.

TOP-SELLER

The Maruti Suzuki Dzire has shown consistently strong sales performance, even becoming India's best-selling car (20,895 units) in July 2025 and the overall leader for the January–September 2025 period, with over 1.53 lakh units sold. It was also Maruti's best-selling car in September 2025. In September 2025 alone, the Dzire sold 20,038 units — an 85 per cent jump from the 10,853 units sold in the same month last year. This makes its success even more remarkable, considering sedans are among the least popular segments today. In fact, the Dzire sells more units than all its rivals combined. Its success comes down to competitive pricing, high mileage (especially in CNG variants), low running costs, and improved safety, including a 5-star Bharat NCAP rating. The Dzire Tour taxi variant remains in high demand and adds significantly to overall sales. Interestingly, the Dzire is one of the few cars that sells more CNG units than petrol ones.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR



ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse

Do good old-fashioned games still work?

IT is the year 2011. I'm holding a Sony Ericsson J105, waiting for *Brick Breaker Revolution* to load on the 2-inch screen. I click on the endless 'revolution' mode. I look bored. I'm so good at the game that I don't know why I bother playing anymore. It's just something to do with my hands, I guess. I tell myself that I'll stop playing once I get the rocket power-ups. It's no fun after that. My thumbs are trained to rest at the 2 and 4 keys. The ball shoots forward. I flick the paddle without thinking. The ball moves where I want it to. The bricks break.

In 2013, I upgraded to a new shiny touchscreen device. *Brick Breaker* lay forgotten in its now permanent home – the back of a dusty drawer. Over a decade since, déjá vu hits me as I install a new game – *Ball X Pit*. It's very dramatic. A breeze drifts through, leaves rustle, and there's this aura around my head. The game whispers to me, "Welcome back. I was waiting for you."

At first glance, *Ball X Pit* seems nothing like *Brick Breaker Revolution*. With its old-word graphics, ball shooting mechanic, and rogue-lite deck building elements, it evades any sense of labeling. But to me, its lineage dates back to 1976 when the game *Atari Breakout* first came out.

Ball X Pit is not that difficult to grasp. You control a character that autoshoots balls at enemies. You can move the character and decide the angles at which the projectiles are shot. Gems drop, you pick them up. You can also choose from a web of upgrades that vanish once the level ends. The brick breaker playstyle is useful in the way you shoot the ball – usually, an angle gets more bounces and kills out of a powerful ball. But its simplicity and nostalgia aren't why this game is so good.

Despite being quite simple in terms of controls, it manages to create a constant tension through a building horde of enemies. First, there's just one line of them far away. Then, instantly, they multiply and the entire screen is covered in tiny blocks of skeletons…honestly, it's terrifying. As they slowly but surely find their way down a vertical screen (kind of like Tetris blocks?), it manages to give you just enough ammo to diffuse it. And never easily. How? Well, this harkens back to the *Brick Breaker* legacy. The projectiles you shoot are balls. Upgrades make them super balls. Having an ice-shooter ball can, for example, freeze enemies. As you level it up, it could potentially be combined with a laser ball to create this mega ice beam disc that freezes entire groups of enemies.

I thoroughly enjoyed the alchemical way in which upgrades could be merged/fused and even evolved. At some point, I remember combining two balls to create a mosquito shooter, which leeched enemies of their health and gave it to me! The game also makes you rely on your instincts and risk taking abilities. Do you take the frankly dangerous path to the power up that is housed between enemies? Or would you rather hold your ground to see if it can get freed up?

The game is currently available on the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, Mac, PC, and Xbox. It's an easy game to pick up and play for beginners.

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KULDEEP SHANKAR,** S/o. Shri Shankar Prasad and Smt Durgesh Nandini Prasad, holder of Indian Passport No. W1158108 issued on 06/06/2022 at Warsaw, hereby declare I have changed my name to **"(First name) KULDEEP (Last name) SHANKAR" for all purposes which my full name as "KULDEEP SHANKAR"** instead of "(First name) Kuldeep Shankar (Last name) Shankar Prasad" as mentioned in my current passport.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHIVA KUMAR RAJASHEKAR,** S/o Rajashekar, aged about 33 years,a R/o No. 339, Ground Floor, 6th A Cross, 28th A Main, BTM 2nd Stage, VTC: Bangalore South, PO: Bannerghatta Road, Sub District: Bangalore South District, Bangalore-560 076 do herey declare that I have changed my name from **R SHIVA KUMAR** to **SHIVA KUMAR RAJASHEKAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHIVA KUMAR RAJASHEKAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 08-11-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANESH GOWDA .M.V** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shobha Dhananjay Joshi,** daughter of late Shri. T. V. Rama Rao and wife of Shri. Dhananjay Joshi, state that, prior to my marriage in 1994, my official records stated my name as **Shobha Rao**, and since my marriage, my name, in all official records, is shown as **Shobha Dhananjay Joshi.**

MARKS CARD LOST
I, **SRINIVAS YADAV LOKESH** S/o. Lokesh Ramaiah, Residing at No. 107, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Chikkadugodi, Tavarekere, Bengaluru. I have lost my **12th ISC Marks Card** in my house during house renovation. If anybody found the marks card please contact us on **8971978667** or submit to the nearest police station.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHUBHAANGI KUMAR**, aged about 28 years, W/o. Vikas Kumar, 224, Radaint Jasmine Terrace, Jakkur Main Road, Near vdb Apartment Nehru Nagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHUBHAANGI VERMA** to **SHUBHAANGI KUMAR,** vide affidavit dated 08.11.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **"AVANTIKA.R",** aged about 18 Years, D/o Sri. V. Ramachandrappa, R/at No.28, Doolapalli Village, Tayalur Post, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District - 563136, now studying at Bangalore, have changed my name from **"SAI PRANATHI"** to **"AVANTIKA.R",** vide affidavit dated 7/11/2025 sworn to before K.V.Mani Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANDHYA BAIRY THANTRADY**, Presently residing at B-002, Hallmark Nest, Ground Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Naidu Layout, Opp. Dronacharya Badminton Court, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560061, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from **SANDHYA BAIRY THANTRADY** to **SANDHYA BAIRY** vide affidavit dated 08-11-2025 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARI PRASHANTH G, aged about 34 years, S/o R. Govindan, R/at No. 29, Hanumanna Layout, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097. I have changed my daugther's name from **VIHARIKA H** to **HARUNIKA MENBAA H,** All the names are one and the same person, vide Affidavit Dtd 04.11.2025 Sworn Before Notary: R Ramesh, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SHERLY JOHN** W/o Srinivas Ramu, R/at Provident Welworth City, G 10/107, 1st Floor, Dodbellapura Main Road, Marasandra Road, Doddatumkur, Bangalore Rural-562 163 do hereby declare that both the names of my son i.e. **TANAY SRINIVAS** and **TANAY S** are one and the same and refers to him only, henceforth he shall be known and called as **TANAY SRINIVAS** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 08-11-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Y.R. CHANDRASEKAR** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANAND MAHESWAR,** S/o. K. Babu Uma Maheswar, aged about 37 years, R/at. Flat No.3096, 9th Floor, Block 3, Casa Paradiso 2, Shoba City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore-77,
I have changed my name from **" ANAND MAHESWAR "** to **" ANANDS MAHESWAR"** vide affidavit dated 05/11/2025 sworn before G. Dayananda Advocate & Notary, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shanta G**, W/o Harshavardhana H.C, residing at No. 18/5, 14th A Main Road, Attiguppe, Vijayanagar, Bangalore – 560040, hereby declare that my name has been mentioned as **Shanta G** and **Shobha** in different documents. Both the above names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. This clarification is made vide Affidavit dated 07/11/2025, sworn before Notary Onkarappa N.R., Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Raghunandan** S/o. Dundappa, Aged about 29 years, Occ: Private Work, Residing at No. 83 and 92, Ward No.22, Vivekananda Nagar, Near Millenium School, Aland road, Gulbarga -585101, now at No. 005 SSVR IRIS, 3rd Cross, JCR layout, Panathur, Bengaluru. I confirm that **Raghunandan** s/o Dundappa and **Raghunandan Honagunti** S/o Dundappa Honagunti refer to the same person i.e., myself before advocate notary by **Lakshmi Devi. R**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Swathi Pavan Kumar (Old name)** W/o. Pavan Kumar Venkat Rao aged about 46 years, Residing at No.192 Trupti, 6th Main, BEML Layout 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore-560098 have changed my name to **SWATHI PAVAN (New name)** for all official purposes in future vide affidavit dt 06-11-2025 and Sworn before Advocate and Notary K. C.Gauthami, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JECINTHA CABRAL,** Aged about 43 years, D/o. Lariceno Francis Cabral, Flat No.201, D2 Block, Golden Palms Apartment, K.Narayanapura, Bangalore North, Dr. SRK Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077 have changed my name from **JECINTHA KUMAR to JECINTHA CABRAL** vide Affidavit Dated 08-11-2025, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public D. Rajanna, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. TAMIL PRIYA.R.K** W/o Mr Nataraj.R, R/at: No. 303, A Block, East Wing, Crystal Due Appartment, Byreshwra Layout, Hennur Bande, Bangalore North, Kalyananagar, Bangalore-560043. Do hereby declare that our daughter's correct Name is NETRA.N, but in my daughter's 10th Std.,Marks Card (ICSE) Mother's Name is mentioned as **TAMIL PRIYA** (without initial) but correct Name is **TAMIL PRIYA.R.K** vide affidavit dated 5-11-2025, sworn before notary Vanajakshi.R, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) VANITHA MIRANDA SEBASTIAN MIRANDA,** residing at No. B-209, 2nd Floor, Amigo lakeview Apartment, Agrahara Layout, Thirumenahalli, Bangalore-560064, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) VANITHA MIRANDA SEBASTIAN MIRANDA to (NEW NAME) VANITHA MIRANDA,** vide affidavit dated 08.11.2025 sworn before Notary C.Santhosh., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RASHMI.S & ASHOKA KUMAR BANNUR,** R/at No.6, 5th 'K' Cross, Behind Axis Bank, Chokkasandra, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 057, have changed our Son's name from **VAMSHIK to VAMSHIK SEETHA RAM.** Vide affidavit dated: 22/08/2025, sworn before Notary V.Anjanappa, Bengaluru.

NAME DECLARATION
I, **VENKATASWAMY PILLA,** S/o Sri. Jagannadham, aged about 43 years, working at AIRFORCE TECHNICAL COLLEGE (AFTC) DSC PLN 1045A, Jalahalli West, Shettihalli Cross, Bengaluru.
I declare that in my daughter's (PILLA CHARANYA'S) School records my name is mentioned as **P VENKATASWAMI** instead of **"VENKATASWAMY PILLA"** and Mother name was entered as **P. VARALAXMI** instead of **"PILLA VARALAXMI"** Vide Affidavit dated 06.11.2025 Sworn to before Notary Vani G K at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DARSHAN .K.N,** S/o. Nanjundaiah, aged Major, residing at #42, 2nd Cross, Vinayakanagara Layout, Kadabagere Post, Kadabagere, Bangalore-562130, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **K.N. DARSHAN** to **DARSHAN .K.N**, vide affidavit dated 06.11.2025, sworn to before V. Rajashekhara, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GHAYAZ MOHAMMED PYARU, Age about 57 Years, S/o. Mohammed Pyaru, and Residing at No. 932, 4th Cross Opp to Mohammed Ali Lane Road, Periyar Nagar, Fraser Town Post Bangalore-560 005 have changed my name to MOHAMMED GHAYAZ** vide Affidavit Dated 07-11-2025, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public C. Sharada, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I. **"Saravana Babu B C"**, son of S Babu Chandrashekar, aged about 23 years, currently residing at no #2437 SMV Layout 1st block, near KHB Platinum, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri. Bangalore - 560060, have changed my name from **"Saravana Babu B C"** to **"Aarav B C",** vide affidavit dated 4/11/2025 sworn to before G.Dayananda Advocate and Notary Bangalore

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Inside *Udaala*

Pruthvi Shamanur and Hrithika Srinivas on fun, dialects, and chaos in Amol Patil's debut film, which is set to release this week

A still from the film

A SHARADHAA

Amol Patil's directorial debut, *Udaala*, hits theatres on November 14. According to the makers, the film brings the playful energy of teenage life to the big screen with a strong North Karnataka flavour. Produced by Ravi Shamanur and Yogaraj Bhat, with music by Chethan-Davy Sosca and cinematography by Shivashankar Noorambada, the film aims to blend humour, mischief, and authenticity. In this exclusive chat, Pruthvi Shamanur and Hrithika Srinivas talk about their characters, the challenges of regional dialects, and the fun of filming. *Excerpts:*

How did you prepare for your roles in *Udaala*?

Pruthvi Shamanur: For me, it was exciting. Pakkya is a total contrast to my debut in *Padavi Poorva*. That first role was soft and relatable, while Pakkya is mischievous, energetic, and always up to something, yet somehow commands the space.

Hrithika: Pinky is playful and curious. She mirrors Pakkya's energy but brings her own personality. I loved that she compliments him without copying. The script gave both of us room to explore.

Pakkya and Pinky are very playful. How did you bring their energy to life?

Pruthvi: Amol encouraged natural playfulness. The humor comes from the characters and situations, not forced jokes, so it felt real.

Hrithika: Even the director joined in the fun. The whole crewembraced the mischievous vibe. Shooting felt like reliving teenage fun with curiosity and laughter. That energy will definitely reach the audience.

Mastering the North Karnataka dialect is a big part of the film. How challenging was it?

Pruthvi: It required preparation. Being from Davangere helped, but Pakkya's specific accent and rhythm needed focus. It wasn't just about the words—the gestures and energy of the place mattered.

Hrithika: I can speak Kannada, but I trained for a month in the North Karnataka dialect. Yogaraj Bhat's dialogues had unique words and expressions. Learning them helped me live as Pinky, not just perform the lines.

Did speaking the dialect help you connect emotionally with your characters?

Pruthvi: Absolutely. Playing a Tam Tam driver and tourist guide meant I had to feel like a local in Bijapur. That authenticity matters.

Hrithika: Yes. Internalising the accent made my expressions, body language, and timing feel natural. By the end of the shoot, I was fully in Pinky's shoes.

Any memorable moments from shooting in Bijapur or with the crew?

Pruthvi: The improvisations and spontaneous reactions were unforgettable. Amol gave us freedom, so many moments felt fresh and alive.

Hrithika: I loved interacting with locals, learning their gestures, and exploring the town. The camaraderie with Pruthvi during playful sequences was a highlight.

What was it like working with debut director Amol Patil?

Pruthvi: Amol is confident and clear about his vision. He lets actors explore while keeping the story intact. That balance is rare for a first-time director.

Hrithika: He is creative and energetic. He knows what he wants, but lets the actors contribute. The set was lively and collaborative.

What excites you most about your characters?

Pruthvi: The freedom to explore. Pakkya's mischievous nature allowed me to experiment and grow as an actor.

Hrithika: Pinky's curiosity and playful side. The script lets her grow alongside Pakkya while balancing fun with emotion. I enjoyed portraying that mix.

What should audiences expect from *Udaala*?

Pruthvi: Laughter, mischief, and a story that feels real, especially for people in North Karnataka.

Hrithika: A lively and immersive experience. Audiences will laugh, connect with the characters, and enjoy the regional flavour. It's playful and relatable.

Any advice for viewers before they watch the film?

Pruthvi: Relax and enjoy. Let the story and characters carry you.

Hrithika: Laugh, feel, and stay curious just like the characters.

A still from the film

Madhavan's look from *Dhurandhar* is here

CE FEATURES

THE makers of *Dhurandhar*, starring Ranveer Singh, unveiled Madhavan's character poster on Sunday. Directed by Aditya Dhar (*URI: The Surgical Strike*), *Dhurandhar* also features Arjun Rampal, Akshaye Khanna, and Sanjay Dutt in key roles.

The film has music by Shashwat Sachdev and lyrics by Kumaar. Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya, and Lokesh Dhar, *Dhurandhar* is set to be released in theatres on December 5. Madhavan has had four releases this year so far: *Hisaab Barabar, Test, Kesari Chapter 2,* and *Aap Jaisa Koi*. He will next be seen in *De De Pyaar De 2*, releasing on November 12, which also stars Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh, Jaaved Jaaferi, and Gautami Kapoor. In addition to *Dhurandhar*, Madhavan also has *GDN* and *Adhirshtasaali* in the pipeline.

'Rishab Shetty showed the world our roots and *Jai* carries that pride ahead'

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Suniel Shetty, who has worked in over 100 films across three decades, finds new excitement in working in Tulu cinema. He will next be seen in the Tulu film, Jai, directed and starring Roopesh shetty and Adhvithi Shetty, under the RS Cinemas banner, which is set to release this week. In his recent visit to Bengaluru, he talks about the rise of the city and its film industry, his upcoming film, and more. "I have seen the reactions for *Jai* from Qatar, Dubai, Goa, and other places. And all I want to say is, small can also be very big. The Kannada film industry started small, but they are number one in the country. It gives a proud feeling for the rest of the country as well," he says.

His message is clear: success is not just about scale but sincerity. "My intention in doing a film in Tulu is to encourage Tulu cinema, not for anything else. I expected passionate people to work on the film, but I didn't expect it on such a scale and at such a level. Hats off to the entire team," he adds. The actor goes on to mention Roopesh Shetty, the actor-turned-director known for his relentless work ethic. "Roopesh has made it possible, not only as an actor but as a director. He is one of the most hardworking people I have ever seen. Nobody can change the destination of a person who truly believes in himself. I think Roopesh is one such child who has managed to put it all together. I will also be there for him," Suniel says.

He also lauds Rishab Shetty for putting Tulu and coastal Karnataka on the global map. "Rishab did it with Kantara by taking our roots, beliefs, and traditions to the world. I am thankful to him for that and now I thank the *Jai* team for taking Tulu cinema forward with the same pride," he adds.

Suniel recounts his bond with the legends of Kannada cinema. "I have always admired Dr Rajkumar sir. I was close to Puneeth Rajkumar and continue to share a great bond with Sudeep. The people, the food, and the warmth of Bengaluru have always felt like home to me," he shares. Born in Mulki, near the Durgamma temple, Suniel adds, "My country and my state matter to me. My karma bhoomi is Maharashtra, and my janma bhoomi is Karnataka. That culture and those roots will always stay with me." Finally, he offers a heartfelt tribute: "Today, Roopesh is a big star, but he is humble, and that is his beauty. As a maker and as a younger brother, I pray for his success and will always be there for him."

Suniel Shetty & Roopesh shetty

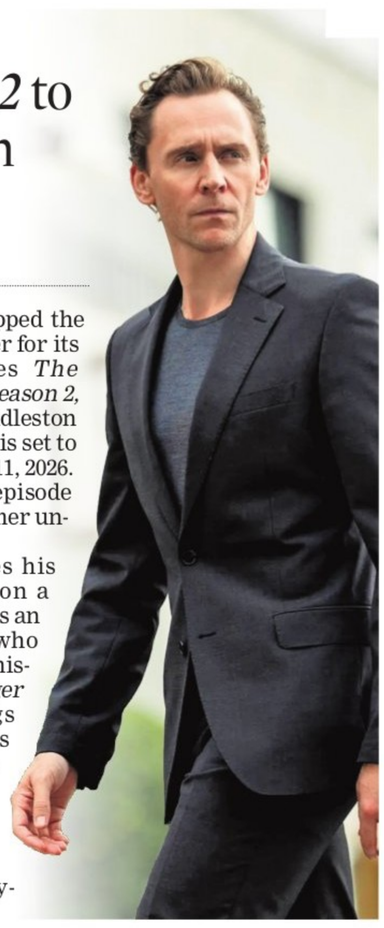
Jessica Chastain to lead *My Darling* California

JESSICA Chastain is all set to lead the cast of *My Darling California*. She is joined by Chris Pine, Josh Brolin, Don Cheadle, Mikey Madison, and Charles Melton in the cast.

My Darling California is directed by Elijah Bynum, who recently directed the drama *Magazine Dreams*. He made his debut in 2017 with the Timothee Chalamet-starrer, *Hot Summer Nights*. According to reports, the film revolves around a crime that interconnects the lives of a TV host, his troubled wife, a country music singer, two petty thieves, and an ex-con, who are all trying to lead a better life.

Chastain is awaiting the release of her TV show, *The Savant*. The Apple TV series is currently awaiting a release date. Brolin was recently seen in *Weapons*. Cheadle last appeared in the Prime Video drama, *Unstoppable*. Pine will next be seen in *Alpha Gang*, alongside Cate Blanchett. Madison recently won the Oscar for Best Actress for her performance in *Anora*.

The *Night Manager S2* to premiere in January



CE FEATURES

PRIME Video dropped the first official teaser for its upcoming series *The Night Manager Season 2*, starring Tom Hiddleston in the lead. The series is set to premiere on January 11, 2026. Every Sunday, a new episode will drop on the streamer until February 1.

Hiddleston reprises his role, for which he won a Golden Globe award, as an intelligence officer who takes on a dangerous mission. *The Night Manager Season 2* also brings back Olivia Colman as Angela Burr, along with new cast additions such as Diego Calva, Camila Morrone, Paul Chahidi, Indira Varma, and Hayley Squires.

Politics, family, and faith collide in rural heartland

A SHARADHAA

RONA

Cast: Raghu Raja Nanda, Sharath Lohitashwa, Prakruthi Prasad, Bala Rajwadi, Sangeetha Anil, K S Sridhar, and Chillar Manju

Director: K Satish

RATING 2.5/5

VILLAGE politics offers rich material for cinema, and *Rona* approaches it with genuine ambition. The film opens in such an atmosphere that feels alive yet burdened by its politics. Director K Satish Kumar sets the stage where tradition, ambition, and family loyalty intertwine. The film attempts to blend politics, religious rituals, and generational clashes into a mass entertainer, weaving father-son relationships with themes of love, friendship, and community responsibility.

Ramakrishna (Sharath Lohitashwa), the village's moral anchor, stands against an MLA who bends rules for personal gain, ignores public needs, and even encroaches on sacred ground. When threats escalate, Shivu (Raghu Raja Nanda) steps in. In his debut lead role, he impresses in action sequences and holds his own alongside Sharath Lohitashwa. Their dynamic forms the emotional core of the film, showing courage, loyalty, and the energy of youth challenging entrenched village hierarchies.

Kavya (Prakruthi Prasad), Ramakrishna's good friend Hanumanthu's (Raja Balawadi) daughter, arrives with a research project, offering an outsider's perspective on the village's political and social dynamics. She observes, questions, and contrasts modern ideals with traditional obligations, though her role could have been explored further. This subplot underscores the generational tension between old customs and emerging perspectives, adding subtle complexity to the narrative.

The festival of Goddess Kalika is both a visual spectacle and a narrative pivot. Songs, dances, and rituals celebrate faith and community, while accidents and mysterious events introduce suspense. The film's rural setting, largely authentic and immersive, highlights local customs and the moral weight of traditions, making the environment a character in its own right. The reason behind the film's title, *Rona*, is contextualised within these cultural and political layers, giving the story a grounded sense of place.

The narrative of *Rona* suffers from predictability. Political rivalries, familial loyalties, and moral dilemmas follow familiar patterns, and some motivations behind key events feel underdeveloped. Yet the film succeeds in portraying the intersection of politics, family, and faith, giving audiences a relatable emotional core. Humour, friendships, and emotional beats provide balance to the heavier political drama, making the story accessible without being overly complicated.

Performance-wise, Sharath Lohitashwa anchors the story with gravitas, while Raghu Raja Nanda shows promise and energy in both action and emotional sequences. Chillar Manju adds levity, and the supporting cast strengthens the village's authenticity. Arun Kumar's cinematography captures the rural landscapes vividly, while Gagan Baderiya's music complements the film's mood, especially during festival and ritual sequences.

Rona is an earnest attempt at blending rural politics, family drama, and devotional themes. While it doesn't go all-out on narrative and occasionally leans on familiar tropes, it offers moments of courage, loyalty, and community devotion. It's a watchable, heartfelt story of youth, morality, and tradition set against the vibrant, lively world of village life, a film that partially succeeds in weaving its many threads into a cohesive whole.